Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-210
Wednesday
30 October 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-210 30 October 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reportage on Central American Parliament Talks 1
Guatemalan Army Provides Security *[Panama City ACAN]* 1
President Carpio Addresses Parliament *[Guatemala]* 1
Serrano Speaks at Opening *[Guatemala City Radio/TV]* 3
Cristiani Speaks at Opening *[Guatemala City Radio/TV]* 4
Parliament Elects Board Members *[Panama City ACAN]* 6
Call for Expanded Integration *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 6
Energy Organization Meeting Opens in Caracas 7
Perez on Upcoming Meeting *[Caracas TV]* 7
Mexican Official on Oil Shipments to Cuba *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 9
More on Mexican Position *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 9
Central America Reacts Favorably to G-3 Summit *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 10
Legislative Leaders Urge OAS Action on Haiti *[Panama City ACAN]* 11
Andean Antidrug Struggle Recommendations Made *[Madrid EFE]* 11

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

G-3 Move to Economic Integration Praised *[Havana Radio]* 13
Commentary on G-3 Summit *[Havana Radio]* 13
Central Committee Member on U.S. Blockade *[Hamburg DPA]* 14
Commentary on Results of Colombian Elections *[Havana Radio]* 14
Lage, Chavez Explore Means To Fight Delinquency *[Havana TV]* 15

Barbados

Government Calls Union Ultimatum Unreasonable *[CANA]* 15
Unions Reserved on Government Response *[CANA]* 16

Dominican Republic

Adverse Effects of OAS Sanctions Noted *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 16

Grenada

Aristide 'First Haitian Leader To Visit Grenada' *[Bridgetown CANA]* 17

Haiti

Aristide Dissatisfied With Embargo Measures *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Pro-Aristide Demonstration in Martinique *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Senate Urges Government To Rectify Situation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Government 'Allegedly' Agrees To OAS Mission *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Junta Agrees To Meet Delegation *[Bonaire Radio]* 18
Deputy Views OAS Negotiations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18

St. Lucia

Regional Supreme Court Chief Justice Appointed *[Bridgetown CANA]* 18

Trinidad and Tobago

Police Probe Allegedly Reveals 'Syndicate' *[Bridgetown CANA]* 18

MEXICO

First Stage of Bank Privatization Plan Complete *[NOTIMEX]* 20
National Bank Grants Cuba $300 Million Cr[illegible]. *[NOTIMEX]* 20
PEMEX Official Denies Selling Crude to Cuba *[AFP]* 21

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

President Cristiani Assesses Political Scene *[San Salvador Radio]* 22

Guatemala

U.S. Aid Depends on Human Rights Report *[EL GRAFICO 27 Oct]* 24
* Electricity Rationing To Last 'Indefinitely' *[EL GRAFICO 3 Sep]* 24

Honduras

Finance Minister Views Military Spending *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 25

Panama

Legislator Campaigns for Permanent U.S. Bases *[CRITICAL LIBRE 24 Oct]* 25
Minister Comments on Menendez Resignation *[Panama City Radio]* 26
Vice President Ford on Foreign Investment *[LA PRENSA 25 Oct]* 26
Japanese Embassy Official Denies Loan Grant *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 25 Oct]* 27
Economy Minister on Japanese Support *[Panama City TV]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Peronists Win 14 Seats in Chamber of Deputies *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Oct]* 29
Further on Election Results *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Oct]* 29
* Plan To Prevent Saadi's Reelection Revealed *[CLARIN 22 Sep]* 30
Domestic Sales Increase During Third Quarter *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Oct]* 30
Ecuadoran Envoys, Officials Discuss Border Issue *[TELAM]* 31
Di Tella Departs for Mercosur Ratification *[TELAM]* 31
Cavallo on Inflation Rate; Departs for Chile *[TELAM]* 31
Fish Exports Increase in First Half of Year *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Oct]* 31

Bolivia

End to Foreign Debt Linked to Coca Eradication *[PRESENCIA 20 Oct]* 32
Ecuadoran Delegation Visits Paz Zamora *[La Paz TV]* 32

Brazil

Monthly Interest Rates Set at 42 Percent *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 32
Rates Spark Re-Indexation *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 27 Oct]* 32
* Werneck Criticizes High Interest Rates *[VEJA 25 Sep]* 33
Bankers Surprised by Rising Dollar, Gold Rates *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Central Bank Chief Comments *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Sao Paulo Metalworkers Strike for Higher Pay *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Schedule for Future Privatizations Announced *[Brasilia Radio]* 35

Kohl Confirms Environmental Foundation Funds *[Brasilia Radio]* 35
Finishes South American Tour *[Hamburg DPA]* 35
Rezek Comments on Chile Joining Mercosur *[Brasilia Radio]* 35
* New List Items To Be Presented at GATT *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 9 Oct]* 35
Launch of Environmental Satellite Set for 1992 *[O GLOBO 24 Oct]* 36

Chile

Rojas Justifies Size of Military Budget *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Krauss Defends Efficiency of Police Institutions *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Terrorist Bombs Explode in Western Santiago *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Survey Shows Aylwin Support at 75 Percent *[Santiago TV]* 37
Party Chairman Shows 'Displeasure' With Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 38
Former Pinochet Government Official Heads Office *[Santiago Radio]* 38
Alleged Manuel Rodriguez Front Member Acquitted *[Santiago Radio]* 38
Ecuador Requests Mediation in Dispute With Peru *[Santiago Radio]* 38
Argentine Economy Minister Arrives for Visit *[Santiago Radio]* 39
Education Minister Signs Loan Protocols Abroad *[Santiago Radio]* 39

Colombia

Civil Registry Announces Election Results *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 39
Partial Cabinet Reshuffle Contemplated *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 40
Government Agrees To Resume Talks With CNGSB *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 40

Paraguay

President Rodriguez Comments on Inflation *[ABC COLOR 29 Oct]* 40

Peru

Fujimori Pleased With Results of European Trip *[Lima TV]* 41
Torres y Torres To Withdraw From Cabinet *[Lima TV]* 42
Military Patrol, Guerrillas Clash at El Eslabon *[Madrid EFE]* 42

Venezuela

* Final Count on AD Internal Elections Given *[EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 23 Sep]* 42

Guyana

Hoyte, Commission Reject Election Postponement *[Bridgetown CANA]* 44
Opposition Party Names 13 for Coming Elections *[Bridgetown CANA]* 44

Suriname

OAS Approves Resolution Supporting Government *[Bridgetown CANA]* 45

Reportage on Central American Parliament Talks

Guatemalan Army Provides Security

PA2710191391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2105 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army has deployed hundreds of troops in Guatemala City to guarantee the safety of the presidents, deputies, and other guests who will attend the installation of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen).

The presence of soldiers armed with machine guns and automatic rifles is more evident in southern Guatemala City, the location of the hotels where the visitors will be lodged, and the Miguel Angel Asturias National Theater, where the installation ceremony will be held.

An Army officer said that the atmosphere in the city is "calm but every security measure must be adopted to prevent any incidents."

The Central American deputies and observers began to arrive on 26 October. They were met by special commissions that took them to their hotels.

Former Honduran President Jose Azcona of the Liberal Party and legislators from the National and Christian Democratic parties were the first to arrive in Guatemala City.

The Parlacen will be installed with 67 deputies from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The deputies will be sworn in on 27 October at a plenary session to be held at a Guatemala City hotel.

The guests at the Parlacen's installation include Belizean Prime Minister George Price and representatives from the Andean and European Parliaments.

President Carpio Addresses Parliament

PA2910194991 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1807 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Speech by Central American Parliament President Roberto Carpio Nicolle at the parliament's inauguration at the Miguel Angel Asturias National Theater in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mr. Jorge Serrano Elias, president of Guatemala; Your Excellency President Alfredo Cristiani Buckard of El Salvador; Your Excellency President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras; Your Excellency President Guillermo Endara Galimany of Panama; Your Excellency Prime Minister George Price of Belize; vice presidents and foreign ministers of Central America; Your Excellency Fernando Suarez Gonzalez, president of the European Parliament's Commission for Central America and the Caribbean and delegation; presidents of the electoral tribunals of Central America and respectable delegations; honorable diplomatic corps and international organization representatives; deputies of the Guatemalan Congress; deputies to the Central American Parliament; journalists and members of the media; and distinguished guests:

Today, 28 October, is a great day in Central American history because it marks a fundamental milestone between the ethnocentric and insular present and a future of integration within the framework of a global order, in which the superpowers and international community (hiperbloques e internaciones) circulate and are quickly moving toward the new century.

For the near future, the parliament that is being created today constitutes a revolution in Central America, because it is the first community-oriented political institution to create uniquely Central American political and economic opportunities. In other words, the fulfillment of the homeland, which so many have dreamed of since 1838, when the plan left by the Spaniards was torn to shreds.

As a forum for permanent dialogue, the Central American Parliament is innovative because it is formed by regional political groups. Henceforth, the Parliament will be the political forum that will broach the political, economic, social, and cultural issues of the region. It will also be the most suitable forum to discuss the regional peace issue, the definitive achievement and consolidation of which will be indispensable for our countries to establish the foundations of democracy and economic development.

He who seeks an objective, also seeks the means to achieve that objective, French philosopher [name indistinct] said. This thought applies to the Parliament as a political means of achieving consensus. To achieve unity and integration in Central America, it will be necessary for the countries of the region to make a common effort, to respect one another, and to overcome personal and group interests, which in the past, seriously hampered Central American unity. We will also require an understanding that democracy will become a culture capable of strengthening and harmonizing every aspect of life in society, and not only a form of government.

The juridical framework and the institutions will reflect that democratic culture, attained by a common understanding, which comes from deep within the soul of every Central American.

On this 28 October, we end another five years of effort, during which obstacles were overcome by the will to move forward and the faith that, with this Parliament, we were working for the reconstruction of Central America.

I would like to take a short moment during my speech to pay a warm and heartfelt homage to my former vice president colleagues, who worked with me for a few years and accompanied me in sad and happy moments. We experienced many things together and we have many things to share. Here with us today are Rodolfo Castillo Claramount [applause], Alfredo Fortin Inestrosa

[applause], Sergio Ramirez Mercado [applause], and a much missed Jorge Manuel Dengo of Costa Rica.

This grand moment of dialogue at the Parliament begins today with deputies from three countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. These are the countries that elected their deputies within the given time, in accordance with the treaty and its protocol. Nicaragua, however, has only to set the date for its elections, and Costa Rica has repeatedly expressed its decision to approve the corresponding instruments. I am sure they will join the Parliament. Panama has decided to join. [applause] We also hope that Belize will do so. This would mean a Central America that stretches from the Colombian border to the Panamanian border [as heard]. [applause]

The Parliament must be seen as a milestone within the overall organization process in the region. It is now the product of research and should, in that context, become a legislative body in the future. In order for this political unity to become a reality, a Central American executive branch and a regional supreme court of justice must be formed. The interaction between parliament and government, set forth by the treaty itself, will allow for important progress toward Central American unity.

What type of unity will have to be defined? What type of political organization will be needed? The answerers to these questions will constitute the concept of a new Central America, in which the Parliament itself, the presidential summits, and a forum of vice presidents will have to intervene. According to the treaty and protocol, the parliament is not a just a parliament. It is also the presidential summit that began in 1986, when President Cerezo's suggestions for a Central American parliament and a summit in Esquipulas were initiated, thus beginning the process to reach peace. For this, President Cerezo deserves all my respect. [applause]

I must also state that without the confidence of former Honduran President Jose Simeon Azcona del Hoyo; the late Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte; former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who unfortunately is not here with us; and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez....[pauses] They trusted me to sign the documents I was carrying in a folder under my arm. I must also name Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, and Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon. I say this because all of us have a Central American perspective, and so the confidence they gave me is worth much more than anything else in the world. Please accept my respect and gratitude.

I have to say to President Serrano: Thank you very much for your words, Mr. President. Thank you very much for everything that you do. [applause] I am well aware of his Central Americanist spirit. We were both members of the Reconciliation Commission. He did a magnificent job. That is why President Serrano is advancing the concept of peace. It comes first to him, because he is right in saying that if there is no peace, there is no development. I hope he is successful. He will be. His determination will make it possible to attain the peace in Central America that could not be attained in the past. My respects, Mr. President. Thank you for your support of the Central American Parliament. There will be a lot to say about the position of Central America regarding the integration of parliaments, governments, rulers, forum of vice presidents, and the vice presidential summit.

The vice presidential summit was the best promotion of the work of the presidents. It is in the hands of excellent vice presidents, who have full Central Americanist spirits. I also worked with Vice Presidents Merino of El Salvador and Jacobo Hernandez of Honduras on the protocol for the Central American Parliament. [applause]

Central America is growing. The important thing is not just to feel, but to be Central American. When all is said and done, the ideals of our forefather Francisco Morazan live among the peoples of Central America with some nuances, despite over 150 years of war and all sorts of conflicts. Juxtaposed with the utopia of the past, the Central American Parliament constitutes the start of reconstruction.

Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario, our Ruben Dario, lamented the dismembering of Central American in his poem called "Central American Union," which he dedicated to Guatemalan President Justo Rufino Barrios. He expressed this feeling with an aggrieved cry that springs from the sentiment of the peoples of Central America. Central America cries out in pain to see itself torn apart. Dario later on asked: When will the time come when we will be whole again?.

Central American Federation President Francisco Morazan despaired in his last hours to leave a fatherland torn in pieces and in anarchy. Great Morazan knew deep down the problem of his divided country. He, however, did not see what happened afterward, or else he would have died many times. All those struggles we waged! Today, however, Morazan would think that his death did not bring a vacuum of ideas, but quite the opposite, because today we are fulfilling the dream of that great man.

Salvador Mendieta, the founder of the Central American Unionist Party, promised with great conviction never to (?forsake) his Central American fatherland. Reporter Mario Gandon has rightly stated that the current world, and Central America in this case, needs to hear someone utter with confidence that a future exists. This can be applied to Central America. It needs to hear that there is a future of unity, which is closer with the inauguration of the Parliament yesterday.

The Board of Directors was chosen yesterday. I must thank my colleagues for electing me. Thank you, thank you, for it commits me to work alongside you. [applause] We will conduct our activities in a Central American spirit. How wonderful and happy I feel to see deputies

talking of Central America, trying to say things about Central America as a nation that often cannot be said in each country, thinking that when they travel throughout Central America, they are in their fatherland. Let us sweep away our borders. Let us sweep away ideological and territorial borders. Let us sweep away the cobwebs from our minds, as Mendieta used to say.

That is what the deputies are here to do. We are trying to move ahead with a new culture, namely, the culture of integration. When? As soon possible. We have no time to wait. The world is (?developing) too fast. That is the task we must perform. We must not run so fast that we fall, however. We must carefully weigh what to do. Time in the Parliament is different from time anywhere else. Time here has its scope. We must bear major responsibilities in research, study, and creativity. We will not be able to work if we are not regarded that way. To my fellow integrationists...[pauses] I must mention Guillermo Gonzalez and Danilo Roca with great affection for the noble sentiments they expressed yesterday. Losing an election is not pleasant, of course. I have often experienced that. It is, however, wonderful to say: brother, I lost the election, but I offer you my hand. I convey my great affection to the two of them. [applause]

The only thing left to say comes from my heart. It is something I always say to conclude my speeches: I was born Guatemalan and I am very proud of it, but I want to die a Central American. Thank you. [applause]

Serrano Speaks at Opening

PA2910163591 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1749 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Speech by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano at the opening of the Central American Parliament at the Miguel Angel Asturias National Theater in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama; prime minister of Belize; vice presidents of Central America; president of the Central American Parliament [applause]; foreign ministers; ministers of state; presidents of the parliaments of Central America; representative of the European Parliament; presidents of the electoral tribunals of Central America; and members of the diplomatic corps, deputies, special guests, ladies, and gentlemen:

I would like to tell you that in 1985, the first democratic election took place in Guatemala. It was an election that allowed for a new democratic system in this country. Since that campaign, then presidential candidate Marco Vinicio Cerezo [applause], presented the creation of the Central American Parliament as an option for the solution of the region's electoral problems. We who held a different position opposed that proposal. Today, we have to clearly admit that now former President Cerezo was correct. [applause]

I would like to tell you that at that time also, the idea to begin a process was born. It was a different process than the previous ones, and presented serious formulas for the Central American region, such as the Contadora Process.

All those attempts, however, lacked a basic element: The Central American feeling. We Central Americans are very special. We have traditionally solved our problems by ourselves. This is how an agreement or treaty was signed; a document that never had great legal value, but reflected the truth of our countries with great reality and opened the way for an extensive peace process in the region. This was the Esquipulas II document, which is the charter that forges the nature and beginning of this Parliament, which we open here today. Within this context, painstaking work began in Central America to eliminate the ghost of war that existed among the nations.

Let us recall that our states were adversaries and our people were diametrically opposed to each other. It was that difficult dialogue, which seemed destined for failure, which made it possible to end border tensions, and for the path to be opened to solve internal problems. This political process showed that the great Honduran and Central Americanist Jose Cecilio Del Valle was right when he said: Let us make a parliament like the Europeans; let us talk as they do. Let us get together to solve the problem of one, and as soon as that problem is solved, we will leave that country. Let us conserve and defend our nationalities.

What an illustrious man to have proposed these ideas 170 years ago. How wonderful it would be to have the wise Del Valle here today, saying: How great it is that you listened to me.

Today, Central America has chosen a new path, but it is old in its ideals and in the advice of those who preceded us in governing our nations. Today, we see that no one conceives of peace in Central America as simply an absence of war. We all realize that peace processes carry with them a tremendous responsibility to achieve social and economic justice, to see that the prevalence of the law guarantees that human rights will never again be violated in our region, and to enhance the democratic processes.

What we have experienced in these past few politically intensive days—days that have been fabulous and fascinating, and in which ideologies were linked to find paths of expression—has been enriching and encouraging for all Central Americans.

In its process of integration, Central America lacked a fundamental element: a political will. Hence, our Central America believed that integration could be the product of economic agreements, without political commitment. Those integrationist efforts came to be no more than a grouping of mercantilist efforts. Today, we Central Americans have a new card in hand: The possibility of beginning where we should have started from the beginning, through political integration and the recognition of

basic unified concepts, that united us historically, and that will continue to unite us in the course of our history.

Five individuals who headed their countries signed the first agreement: President Cerezo; President Azcona, who is with us today [applause]; President Ortega [applause]; President Arias [applause]; and President Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, may he rest in peace [applause].

This political forum will not disappoint its precursors. When it has been up to us to make the appropriate decisions, I wish to say with all loyalty and honor, that there are two presidents here, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas [applause], and Salvadoran President Freddy Cristiani [applause], who said to me: Jorge, let us move forward. If we have to start with three, we will start with three, but very soon, we will be five, and I hope that some day, there will be seven of us. [applause]

I would not feel right if I do not recognize someone I have already recognized in public. I want to tell you that, on the day I made this public recognition, a distinguished Central American parliamentarian protested saying I was campaigning for this person's presidency of the Central American Parliament. I want to tell you, however, that the campaign for the Parliament's presidency was staged by a man who struggled for an ideal and firmly advanced an idea. This person chased presidents and attended congresses to push the idea in which he believed. This person, who deserves to preside over this parliament, is none other than Roberto Carpio Nicolle. [applause]

One Central American president told me one day: I no longer feel comfortable at Central American forums because, as soon as I arrive and see Carpio, I must hide from him. As soon as he sees me, he asks about the Central American treaty. Only such a tenacious man makes it possible for an idea like this one, which seems so difficult, to become a reality. I am glad and happy. As a Guatemalan and Central American, I believe the Parliament is in the best possible hands. Mr. President of the Central American Parliament, as a Guatemalan citizen, president of this country, and representative of these people, I pledge to give you all the necessary cooperation [applause] so, without any limitations, your vision, which you have helped to take shape, will become the reality we have all dreamed: this Central American Parliament. Mr. President of the Central American Parliament, you have my hand of friendship, my respect, my admiration, and the support of the Guatemalan Government. [applause]

My dear friends, I wish to end my speech by invoking God's name in the knowledge that this great Central American homeland was constructed on the basis of sound Christian principles. I expect these principles of morality, understanding, reconciliation, and peace to prevail forever in our deliberations, our organizations, and, above all, in the hearts of all Central Americans. May the Lord bless you all. Thank you very much. [applause]

Cristiani Speaks at Opening

PA2910130291 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1735 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Speech by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani at the opening of the Central American Parliament at the Miguel Angel Asturias National Theater in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies the Presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama; prime minister of Belize; vice presidents and first designates of Central America; foreign ministers of Central America, Panama, and Belize; members of the European Parliament; honorable gentlemen of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations; Mr. President and deputies of the Central American Parliament; special guests; ladies and gentlemen of Central America:

Today, 28 October 1991, will go down in Central American history as a memorable date. We have gathered here in the hospitable and brotherly atmosphere of the very noble and illustrious Guatemala City to participate in a solemn event that brings to mind ancient attempts at shared nationality and takes us back on the wings of our historic memory to the times when our ancestors attempted with nobility and honor to establish the foundations of a common future for our people.

The changes wrought by evolution shattered many of those dreams, but always pulsing in the background of our regional hardships was the heartbeat of the unionist ideal, which has survived even the most painful frustrations. It is still here among us, like the flame on the civic altar that all of our heroes deserve. They promoted the independence that we must care for and perfect in accordance with the signs and needs of the times.

I will never tire of remembering and repeating that Central America is rediscovering itself following the most serious crisis of its history, which seriously endangered the survival of regional institutions during the eighties. The crisis, however, has also had positive effects. It eliminated the inactivity and fixations surrounding regional integration; it constructively challenged frail structures based on obsolete authoritarianism; and it firmly established throughout the region a need that is now the best guarantee for real and sustained progress: the need for democracy as a way of government and as a way of life.

The Central American process of the past few years is no less profound and transforming than processes in other conflictive areas on this earth. When a calm perspective allows us to clearly weigh this outstanding moment for humanity, I am certain that Central America will continue to be a permanent source of interest. The Central American crisis, which has been added to the latest cold

war agenda, has also become an important challenge to modernization, which is opening a new and much more active phase with a view to peace and development.

We are fully aware of the great difficulties that lie ahead in this new phase, but we are also comforted and encouraged to continue by knowing that we are now willing to examine and confront national and regional problems with much greater sincerity and courage than in the past. The crisis has made us lose our fear of reality. The enormous ideological and political changes taking place in the world are creating an extraordinarily favorable framework for us to confront specific problems without irrational fears and without paralyzing radicalism.

Communism as a worldwide power has crumbled uneventfully. We are participating, with very understandable stupefaction, in a spectacular change in the panorama of universal political ideas. The "Communist Manifesto's" statement that a phantom was moving through Europe was somewhat prophetic because, in the end, it all turned out to be a threatening and terrorizing phantasmagoria with no foundation in reality.

Now, after the debacle that came so surprisingly soon, a new chapter full of expectations and questions is beginning, because the death of communism implies a revitalization of history with all its conflicts, hardships, and challenges.

We are not naive idealists. We believe, of course, in the ideal of a society that is more free and just, but on realistic bases. Reality is showing us again that we have to make a very clear distinction between ideals and utopia. The aberrant, utopian formula of Marxism has shown itself to be an inoperative fallacy. The ideal of a better world, a better life, a better human being, should be more vivid than ever at this time. Central Americans of these times have an unprecedented privilege: to establish the bases of a renewed unity that leaves behind empty words and grandiloquent, insincere gestures to seek roots in life, in mutually beneficial trade, in meeting legitimate interests, and in obtaining a broad, shared development.

Pragmatism tells us that the past does not return, and for us, who have such a confused and contradictory past, that is a good beginning for strengthening our confidence in the future. It is a future, which for Central America has a generic but unmistakable name: integration. We have already made important efforts for integration, but they have been restrictive and noncommital in nature, without a desire to give up our condition as self-sufficient villages. Now there is a different dynamic. It is not a dynamic invented in a laboratory, but the result of an historic experience and of the traumas of necessity. It is a dynamic, which we describe with great appreciation and fondness: democracy. Democratic integration is, therefore, the base for a new Central Americanism.

From that base, economic integration will be structured in a sure and effective manner. Human integration will be more fluid and natural. Institutional integration will be developed harmoniously. Political integration, effected in the most advantageous manner so as to preserve and improve what we are as national states and as a regional entity, will be the ultimate goal of all these concerted efforts.

To build democracy is a complex phenomenon. The regime of freedom does not encompass only political freedom, but also social, economic, spiritual, and cultural freedom. Democracy cannot be consolidated unless it includes the solution of such distressing problems as extreme poverty, social neglect, mass ignorance, abuses of power, institutionalized corruption, and violence in all its forms. Democracy is synonymous with freedom, but it is also synonymous with solidarity, and to ensure that the latter will stop being merely a beautiful word and will become a tangible benefit for all the inhabitants of our societies is truly not just a political need that we cannot postpone, but also a very clear moral imperative.

It is within the framework of the progressive democratization of the area that we solemnly gather together. A parliament is a pluralistic body in which ideas and plans are debated, and in which the general interest, after all the grandiloquent polemics, has to be the general goal.

The Central American Parliament, which is being formally installed, is based on those concepts, and its unequivocally democratic configuration is the best guarantee of its permanent viability. The idea of creating this parliament emerged here in Guatemala at a crucial time, when the Central American crisis seemed to be expanding inevitably and threatening to make Central America a fearful disaster zone. The audacity of the initiative was initially viewed with skepticism by some, but when ideas are consonant with the flow of the times, their rationality finally prevails. Fortunately, this is what occurred with the initiative of this parliament, which we now see meeting for the first time. Efforts to establish it have been and continue to be great. The parliament is not yet complete, as we would wish it to be. We also realize, however, that plans have a period of maturity and that there comes a time when one has to proceed to deeds, so that those deeds can be a measure of institutions.

We firmly believe that the Central American Parliament has broad possibilities for success. We feel it is a need imposed by the development of the forces of integration in the area, but we well realize that success does not depend solely on good concepts but basically on good functioning. The parliament is born with excellent forecasts, and a good and very solid purpose, but as of tomorrow, as of right now, it will have to begin to prove that it is an effective organization that responds to the expectations of a Central America that is in a process of rapid evolution.

It comforts us to see that all the political forces and persuasions represented in this parliament are imbued

with an authentic Central America mystique that enriches and amplifies the positions of the individual nations.

This permits one to be confident that the parliament will be able to organize its work so specific problems will be addressed efficiently, without disregarding the highest mission of the parliament: To build for the future the Central America of nationalities, one in which no country will lose its identity, but in which all will profit from the benefits of integration. We are willing to do everything in our power so this parliament will be as it should: a peaceful, dynamic, and constructive forum. If this is achieved—as we are sure it will—the benefits for the Central American people will be lasting.

Deputies to the Central American Parliament, today you assume a special historic representation. The eyes of Central America and the world are on you. You have been freely elected to represent in this great assembly the conscience of the area. The Central American presidents, in whose name we speak, formally offer all our respect and support to comply with this high mission. You will have many tasks to do, but above all the most important of them is the mission our peoples entrust you with. This mission is to contribute so Central America can have a better future—in peace, in progress, and in freedom.

Time favors those of us who believe in democracy, who practice tolerance, and exercise pragmatism. Let us call on the God of nations—the prince of peace—to bless Central America and to continue to give us all the necessary strength to serve our peoples and the great united people we are part of, with decisiveness, bravery, and with hope. God bless you. [applause]

Parliament Elects Board Members

PA2810172091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1208 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Oct (ACAN-EFE)— After 14 hours of debates due to sectarian positions, the Board of Directors of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) was elected in the early hours of 28 October, when a consensus was finally reached among the deputies of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Former Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle was elected president, after candidates Danilo Roca and Guillermo Gonzalez declined their candidacies due to lack of consensus.

Former Honduran President Jose Azcona and Salvadoran representative Jose Francisco Guerrero were elected vice presidents.

Jorge Canale Nanne (Guatemala), Donaldo Suazo Tome (Honduras), and Pablo Mauricio Albergue (El Salvador) were elected secretaries.

Albergue was the only one who was not elected by acclamation because he ran against his compatriot Julio Eduardo Moreno.

The members of the Parlacen Board of Directors, who were sworn in at 0430 today, were elected for a one-year period.

Call for Expanded Integration

PA2810165891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2157 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Report by Jose Luis Castillejos]

[Text] Guatemala, 27 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador proposed on 27 October in Guatemala to support the peace and development efforts to accomplish the integration of Central America.

The presidents of Panama, Guillermo Endara; and Guatemala, Jorge Serrano Elias, confirmed to NOTIMEX that "Latin America's moment has arrived, and the Central American Parliament will be the appropriate forum for discussion among the countries of the area."

Interviewed separately, both presidents agreed that Central America will be a developing region as long as it is unified. They pointed out that "as long as understanding is homogeneous, we will progress toward unity."

Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy denied that there would be any risk of stagnation in the negotiations toward Central American integration because a better understanding of current problems is evident.

Godoy and Guillermo Endara arrived in Guatemala City to participate in the opening of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) that is scheduled to take place on 28 October with the presence of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, and Belize Prime Minister George Price.

According to Godoy, the process of integration has been stagnant for a decade, and now, the important issues to be discussed by the 67 parliamentarians include ecology, drug trafficking, and the peace process.

The Nicaraguan vice president stated that Nicaragua expects a proper understanding of the regional issues from the Central American Parliament, because as long as there is understanding, there will be progress toward concrete and responsible unity.

On the other hand, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, former Nicaraguan vice president and current member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front directorate, believes that Central American countries will not be able to solve their problems isolated from each other.

He stated that Parlacem will not become a forum of political polarization, because if this should happen, then "we would be retreating from a desired objective: integration."

According to Ramirez, Parlacem is expected to be a forum where positions will be reconciled, and where

definite peace in such countries as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua will be accomplished. In addition, it must be the mechanism of social and economic integration.

Ramirez urged the establishment of mechanisms to solve issues such as famine, poverty, unsanitary health conditions, and violence, as a fundamental basis toward obtaining stability.

He continued by stating: "I do not see the viability of struggling separately. All nations are experiencing a serious economic crisis that is undermining their social and political foundations."

According to Ramirez, confrontations take place because of extreme poverty and to eradicate this condition, it is necessary to trust and work in harmony, without reservations or political ideologies.

Ramirez believes that the changes currently taking place in the Soviet Union have little effect on Central America. In the case of Nicaragua, he stated that a revolutionary process took place that from the beginning, proclaimed its total independence from the old totalitarian scheme.

He pointed out the urgent need to cut the Armed Forces in Central America, but without weakening the capacity of each nation to protect its sovereignty. In addition, Ramirez called for a reasonable balance of force.

Energy Organization Meeting Opens in Caracas

Perez on Upcoming Meeting

PA3010044091 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1512 GMT 26 Oct 91

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez with local and international reporters and unidentified moderator at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas; live—broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] We will take a question from this side now. AP's Harold Olmos please.

[Olmos] Mr. President, a few days ago an Ecuadoran Government mission came here to explain the Ecuadoran side of the border dispute with Peru. What do you think about the conflict? Also, have you been able to put into practice the idea you proposed several years ago to form a commission of good offices between the King of Spain and the rulers of Portugal and the Vatican to find a solution to Latin America's border problems?

[Perez] At Cozumel's Group of Three [G-3] summit, we discussed the worsening relations and increased tension between Ecuador and Peru; the situation worries us. At the summit we stated what all the area presidents have stated: Ecuador and Peru should try to talk and find a negotiated solution. This is my personal opinion and we clearly stated this in Cozumel. In Latin America we have problems that will always be obstacles to our integration unless we resolve them. I believe these border situations, such as the delimitation of marine and submarine areas or problems of any other kind having to do with bilateral border relations, require our will to solve them. But we must try to solve these problems by ourselves because intervention and international legal assistance are going to create a winner and a loser. If we truly want integration, we should seek bilateral solutions to each of these situations. Of course, within these bilateral situations we cannot completely rule out the possibility of good offices because this is not really mediation or intervention, but cooperation that can be given to countries involved in something of this nature. For the time being, we hope that Ecuador and Peru sit down at the negotiating table to work out their border differences in a friendly and fraternal way, as two Latin American neighbor countries.

[Moderator] Oscar Madrid of the Italian ANSA wire service.

[Madrid] Mr. President, what do think of the following? Greg Passic, chief of the DEA's financial operations section, warned today that the Andean economic integration process might facilitate money laundering; he said this after it was said at the G-3 meeting in Mexico that Andean countries could join the group and form the Group of Six. Alsom regarding the counseling Fidel Castro gave the G-3 presidents, do you think Castro is a better counselor than negotiator?

[Perez] [laughs] I was very surprised to hear about that news, which says that forming a free trade agreement with the Andean Group could increase money laundering. I think we need to categorically reject this but at the same time say it is imperative that all our countries are responsible for establishing efficient and reliable methods to face the problem of money laundering.

Regarding the G-3 and Andean Pact issue, we should not lose sight of the Latin American people's desire for integration. However, we are convinced that we will accomplish this final goal by using all of the integration possibilities available to us, taking into consideration the subregions and bilateral structures already existing among our countries. Because of this there is no difficulty posed by the existence of the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association], the Andean Group, the G-3, and the Group of Rio. It will all result in Latin American integration. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Roberto Cienfuegos of Mexico's EXCELSIOR.

[Cienfuegos] Good day, Mr. President. What do you think about the United State's categorical rejection of rapprochement or dialogue with Cuba? Also, is Washington exerting pressure on the San Jose Pact to preclude its supplying oil to the island, especially when we know that Cuba urgently needs this type of aid? Thank you.

[Perez] I must state categorically that the United States has not exerted any pressure whatsoever, direct or indirect, on our countries regarding our relationship with

Cuba, let alone on Mexico and Venezuela regarding the San Jose Pact. The San Jose Pact was formed by Venezuela and Mexico to supply oil to Caribbean and Central American countries under certain favorable conditions. The pact is now closed. The member countries are known to everyone and Cuba is not one of them. [passage omitted].

[Moderator] We now have our friend Navarro, of NOTIMEX.

[Navarro] Thank you. Mr. President, you will inaugurate the OLADE [Latin American Energy Organization] ministers' 22d meeting on 28 October. One of the main problems discussed by the experts' meeting, which concluded on 25 October, is the fact that although the region is talking about integration and cooperation among Latin American countries, commercial and financial restrictions make a larger interregional oil market impossible. This will cause problems in the near future, particularly for less developed countries in the region, as oil is one of the pillars of their economies. What suggestions can Mexico and Venezuela make, considering they have 90 percent of the continent's oil reserves?

[Perez] I will analyze this situation in my inauguration speech at the OLADE conference. I want to say in advance that my country has been a pioneer on this issue; we have discussed the need to prepare a hemispheric energy strategy to help us guarantee an oil supply to all the countries in this hemisphere. This thesis must be developed. One of the G-3's main goals is to establish a common oil policy for the entire Latin American continent, which includes Mexico, the Caribbean, Venezuela, and Colombia. We are working on this goal, so the OLADE meeting is very significant. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Jose Bujanda of EFE, Spain.

[Bujanda] Mr. President, going back to the issue of Cuba, I wanted to ask you: Following the talks with Fidel Castro, do you think that a solution... [pauses] that democratic elections are possible in Cuba and that a Nicaraguan-style solution is possible—meaning holding democratic elections. Do you think Castro will adopt a constructive and active position, as Daniel Ortega did, if he loses the elections? Also, what will be Venezuela's position? And what will be the position of Colombia and Mexico during the United Nations' next debate on the economic embargo on Cuba? Thank you.

[Perez] The truth is that our goal is to have Cuba fully join the universal democratic system; that has been the tendency of all the great political movements in the world. However, this is obviously a decision that must be adopted by the Cubans. During the Cozumel meeting, Castro tried to explain that the results of the fourth PCC Congress and the decisions adopted for the direct election of the deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Government in Cuba were aimed in this direction. I personally told him that I thought this was a step that had yet to be clearly taken in this direction, meaning the democratization of electoral processes. However, we heard President Castro say that the Cuban Government will organize its first direct and honest elections; he said he the party would turn over the government if it lost the elections.

[Moderator] The microphone is now turned over to our friend...

[Bujanda, interrupting] What is Venezuela's position on the debate...

[Perez, interrupting] The issue is being studied at the United Nations and the countries in the region will assume a joint position. We have yet to adopt a decision, but we certainly hope that all the obstacles which currently precludee a regional harmony will be gone. That is why we say it is necessary for Cuba to clearly state its intentions and for the United States to do likewise. In my address to the 46th UN General Assembly, I said that Cuba should join the world's democratic system and the United States should set aside the blockade because there is no reason for this and it is an obsolete measure. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Here is Estrella Gutierrez from IPS.

[Gutierrez] Forgive me, Mr President, but I would like you to talk about the Group of 15, which will gather the presidents of Africa, Latin America, and Asia. We are living in a unipolar world and could run the risk of becoming part of an empire if we allow it to happen. I would like you to tell us what role can the Group of 15 play to motivate third world cooperation and to encourage parity so there is a little less leadership from the north.

[Perez] Thank you for reminding me that I had not answered part of your previous question. The meeting of the Group of 15 is very important, particularly now. We will have presidents of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, who comprise the Group of 15. It was a happy initiative by former President Julius Nyerere, president of South Commission, on the occasion of the meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. This Group of 15, although it is not a representative of the Movement of Nonaligned [NAM] countries and does not intend to be one, wants to become coordinator of the will of the developing countries. That is why it is composed of countries that represent the three regions making up the NAM. This meeting is gaining importance because the the world is suffering from a complete shakeup. The origins and the philosophy of the nonaligned countries no longer correspond to the new realities of the world. The problem of east-west confrontation is no longer one of the essential reasons for our struggles. The need for North- South understanding is gaining importance for us. I believe the Group of 15 must be guided by this definition so we can submit ideas, which could be reviewed by developing nations.

There are many important things to discuss. I do not believe in a unipolar world. That would be extremely

dramatic for the world. I do not believe the United States has an imperial calling. I say that very clearly. The United States' subjection to the UN decisions in the case of Iraq and Kuwait clearly shows us this reality. However, we cannot trust good intentions. The great powers always have an unavoidable tendency to exercise absolute power. That is why it is necessary for the developing countries and the NAM to actively participate in the reforms to the United Nations, which should be the organization called on to make the decisions that should not be in the hands of a world power just as in the past we did not allow such decisions to be in the hands of the two world powers: the United States and the USSR.

We are now living in a friendlier world. Confrontation has left the framework of political debate as an essential element and we now have the opportunity to promote cooperation and understanding. The Group of 15 can work in this direction to achieve the reforms, both in the UN Charter as well as in a new conduct in UN leadership. I clearly expressed at the UN meeting, for example, that the veto of the five nations is perfectly antidemocratic and the world must not continue to guide itself by this, which was the result of the system that emerged after World War II. The veto system must be eliminated. The security council should be expanded and new norms must be created to establish voting mechanisms determined by the security council depending on the importance of the matters being discussed. [passage omitted]

Mexican Official on Oil Shipments to Cuba

PA2910004491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2310 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Caracas, 28 Oct (NOTIMEX)— A high-ranking Mexican official said 28 October that Cuba received two shipments of up to 240,000 barrels of Mexican oil each in September and October as a result of bilateral negotiations outside the San Jose Agreement.

Raul Hudlet, official in charge of energy policy of the Mexican Energy Secretariat, added that the shipments were made at market prices under an agreement reached between International Mexican Petroleum [Petroleos Mexicanos Internacional—PMI] and the Cuban Government.

No other operations of this type are foreseen for the time being, and future shipments will depend on Cuban interest and market conditions, according to Hudlet, who declined to give the amount of crude that was sold.

The two shipments to the island were delivered in ships with a capacity of 40,000 tons of crude, which is equivalent to 240,000 barrels. The minimum shipment would have been some 60,000 barrels of crude, Hudlet said.

Hudlet is in Caracas to participate in the 22d ministerial meeting of the Latin American Energy Organization [OLADE], which began on 28 October and will end on 30 October.

Questioned on the subject after the opening of the OLADE meeting, Rodrigo Ortiz, vice minister of the Cuban Ministry of Basic Industry, said he knew nothing about the two shipments or of the existence of negotiations between the Cuban Government and the PMI.

Ortiz added that during the summit meeting of the presidents of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela in Cozumel last week, President Fidel Castro reiterated that Cuba does not wish to be included in the San Jose Agreement.

Mexico and Venezuela sell 160,000 barrels of oil a day to 11 Central American and Caribbean countries under the San Jose Agreement, which finances a part of the bill as long as the amount involved is used for social development projects.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said on 26 October that the agreement is "already closed," and that Cuba is not included in it. At the same time, he denied that the United States is exerting pressure on Venezuela and Mexico because of their relationship with Cuba.

More on Mexican Position

PA3010030891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1532 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Report by Alfonso Navarro]

[Text] Caracas, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Jose Luis Aburto, Mexican undersecretary for energy, said that an increasing shift toward heavier varieties in the Mexican crude oil available for export may affect future operations in Latin America.

In an interview with NOTIMEX, Aburto said that approximately two-thirds, or 900,000, of the 1.35 million barrels of oil that Mexico exports daily are of the heavy Maya type, which many refineries in the region are not equipped to process.

According to the official, "the market shifts to other countries as the mixture changes." He added that the proportion of Maya crude oil in the mixture that Mexico exports tends to increase. Aburto said this is a question of market that does not affect mechanisms such as the San Jose Agreement, in which Mexico and Venezuela sell 160,000 barrels of oil daily to 11 Central American and Caribbean countries under preferential terms.

Aburto is participating in the 23d ministerial meeting of the Latin American Energy Organization [OLADE], which opened in Caracas on 28 October and will close on 30 October.

The Mexican official said he plans to meet with Venezuelan Energy Minister Celestino Armas to examine the progress of the recent expansion from 120,000 to 160,000 barrels per day of crude oil stipulated in the San Jose Agreement, which was signed by the two countries in 1980. "We wish to take the opportunity at the meeting to study the allocation of 80,000 barrels to each of the

two countries, technical details, and financing," he said. He recalled that the two governments updated the terms and expanded the agreement two months ago.

OLADE devoted one day of the ministerial agenda to discuss bilateral agreements. Mexico anticipates meetings with Central American countries, as well as with Colombia and Venezuela in the framework of the Group of Three's [G-3] energy committee. Aburto said that one point on the OLADE agenda calls for examining Latin America's energy matrix to identify the regional market's opportunities and needs. "This is a key component of the energy integration of the Latin American countries." Aburto said that this analysis seeks to identify energy resources, production capabilities, nature of the demand, and flows in and out of the region.

The G-3 is working to connect Central America and the Caribbean electrically through specific and economically feasible projects. Similarly, electrical connections between Mexico and Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and Venezuela and Colombia are being studied. "Neighboring countries would be connected first. We would later progress toward full interconnection," he said.

For Mexico, the G-3 represents an opportunity to secure the future supply of Venezuelan and Colombian coal for its plans to expand electricity generation through the construction of "multiple fuel" generating plants, the official pointed out.

In addition to electric connectivity and the coal market, the G-3 energy committee is studying power exchanges, the creation of a gas infrastructure between Colombia and Venezuela, and the exploitation of the region's hydroelectric potential.

Regarding efficient energy use, Aburto said the price policy, the reduction of subsidies, and specific actions in industry and transportation, which use up 70 percent Mexico's energy, put the country in a privileged position. Referring to energy efficiency, the main topic at the organization's meeting, he said: "Mexico is on its way to assume leadership in this field at OLADE because of our experience."

He pointed out that, in the electricity field, Mexico has been very active in attracting capital to finance thermoelectric plants, as well as construction and leasing contracts, as part of a plan to incorporate these works eventually into the public sector.

The official said that the electricity field is encouraging the joint generation of energy for industrial self-supply through the use of "processing vapor" associated with the industries' primary activities.

Another Mexican innovation presented at the OLADE meeting is the work of the National Energy Saving Commission, created late in 1989.

Aburto said it is a priority to provide greater resources to this commission and coordinate actions with Mexican Petroleum and the Federal Electricity Commission.

Central America Reacts Favorably to G-3 Summit

PA2510183691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0122 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] San Jose, 24 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Central American governments and political parties today applauded the invitation to Fidel Castro to attend the Group of Three [G-3] summit as a positive step toward Cuban democracy and reintegration into the Latin American community.

The decision by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to invite Cuban President Fidel Castro to their summit meeting in Cozumel, Mexico, was termed as positive in Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador. Gaviria, Salinas, and Perez met within the context of the G-3 and invited Castro as a guest.

Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias told NOTIMEX that Castro's presence at the Cozumel meeting strengthens Latin American integration and revives confidence that Cuba can join in the changes around the world. Latin America must create its own dialogue, and the people of Latin America must settle their problems without direct meddling from other nations, Serrano added. He added that it is encouraging that the G-3 presidents are getting involved in the Cuban problem, particularly now that the island is facing economic problems and oil shortages.

In San Jose, Costa Rica, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said today that his country shares the interest of the G-3 in a peaceful transition toward democracy in Cuba. "Our country, like the rest of the world, hopes that Cuba will return to democracy and the OAS," from which it was expelled on 1960 by an OAS General Assembly that met in Costa Rica.

Niehaus, who is considered a candidate to the post of OAS secretary general, felt that one of the major achievements of the past summit was to urge Cuba to choose a peaceful transition toward democracy.

If there is a commitment in that respect, "there must be an overture on the part of the other countries of the continent," he added. The Costa Rican official noted that in the Rio Group, to which Costa Rica is an observer, "there is a general commitment to cooperate by all means possible in restoring democracy to Cuba without bloodshed."

Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias said that "it is fine that Cuba should participate in talks with the G-3," while the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry voiced caution on the G-3 initiative.

Carias indicated that his country wants no confrontation with Cuba and hopes that the rapprochement of the Latin American countries that have relations with the Castro government will serve to reduce areas of tension.

In Panama, President Guillermo Endara declined to comment on the G-3 meeting, but the country's political parties supported the decision to reincorporate Cuba into Latin America. My government is assessing the Cozumel Declaration, Endara indicated. He then promised to give his views on it on another occasion.

Panamanian Legislator Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, however, said that "Cuba's reintegration into the democratic processes in Latin America is healthy." He noted that "if Europe and the United States are trying to save the Soviet Union from economic collapse, there is no reason why we must abandon Cuba." Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), stated that the initiative to invite Castro to Cozumel can help to "undo" the economic embargo that the United States has imposed since 1961. Christian Democratic Legislator Milton Henriquez felt that it was "appropriate and correct" to invite Castro, because that helps to create the conditions that would lead to "the fall of the Cuban regime."

In San Salvador, Deputy Ludovico Samayoa said that the G-3 meeting marks "the start of efforts to open democratic opportunities in Cuba and allow the people to express their yearning for democracy through peaceful means."

Legislative Leaders Urge OAS Action on Haiti

PA2810194791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2319 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The presidents of Central American parliaments today called on the Salvadoran guerrillas "to suspend violence, the irrational destruction of assets and murders," and to reach a short-term agreement on a definite and formal cease-fire with the government.

Moreover, they demanded that the OAS "keep up the pressure" against "the illegitimate government installed in Haiti" and undertake "the necessary steps to initiate a dialogue with Cuba."

At the conclusion of the fourth meeting of regional parliamentary presidents held in San Salvador over the weekend, the participants issued a joint declaration in which they expressed their "unconditional support" for the peace efforts in El Salvador, as this "is an essential and vital factor for regional stability."

Regarding the Haitian situation, the parliamentary presidents expressed their support to ousted endeavors by President Aristide "in favor of the speedy return to democracy in his country."

The document states: "We demand that the OAS keep up the pressure on the illegitimate government installed by the Haitian coupists, and effectively enforce new and even stronger sanctions against that government."

In their statement, the officials demanded that Cuban President Fidel Castro initiate a dialogue with the groups opposed to his government and requested the OAS to intervene to ensure this action takes place.

Other agreements signed by the Central American parliamentary leaders refer to mutual cooperation in financial, technical, political, institutional, and cultural fields.

This meeting took place on the eve of the inauguration of the Central American Parliament in Guatemala, which the participants describe as "a historic moment that reflects the high spirit of unity and cooperation among our nations."

The fifth meeting of the regional parliamentary presidents will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica in April 1992.

Andean Antidrug Struggle Recommendations Made

PY2810135691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] La Paz, 27 Oct (EFE)—Representatives of seven Latin American political parties today rejected the use of repression and violence in the antidrug struggle and recommended joint measures to tackle this problem.

These conclusions were issued during the second meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties [Coppal], which met in La Paz on 26 and 27 October. The meeting is being attended by delegates from Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico.

The parties recommended the creation of an "Andean Antidrug Pact", through which a regional center can be created with an institutional structure and legal mechanisms to combat the production, processing, and trafficking of drugs in a simultaneous, integrated manner.

The Coppal meeting maintained that each country should commit itself to fighting the progressive institutionalization of corruption, the loss of sovereignty caused by the illegal production and trafficking of drugs, and unrestricted repression.

As for the strategy, the conference recommended following the concepts outlined by the "Andean Summit" held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1990, which concluded that the production and trafficking of drugs in Andean countries is linked to economic factors that have profound sociopolitical implications.

The conference's final document states that the antidrug struggle should provide for the implementation of economic measures with respect to police and/or military mechanisms.

Coppal stated that a partial solution to the problem is insufficient because it undermines the economic and political stability and the sovereignty of the countries involved.

Coppal President Bernardo Inch, who is Bolivian, said that the production of cocaine and marijuana in Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru has increased over the past few years, and that the revenue from illegal exports is $3.2 billion annually.

Inch said that the cocaine business has reached surprising levels in Andean countries, where it is earns the equivalent of 80 percent of all legal exports. Inch is a member of Bolivia's ruling Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

Carlos Flores, a leader of the Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), said that his country is a "bridge" for drug traffickers. He said that his party should send a representative to the next antidrug meeting of Andean countries and the U.S. Government.

Venezuelan Feijoo Colomine, of the opposition "Movement Toward Socialism," said that the antidrug effort should be supported by both producer and consumer countries.

"The United States cannot make impositions. It should negotiate levels of responsibilities in the antidrug fight," the Venezuelan politician said.

The next Coppal meeting will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, in March 1992.

Cuba

G-3 Move to Economic Integration Praised

PA2810222091 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The Group of Three [G-3], formed by Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico, has included among its primary goals the promotion of cooperation with the Caribbean and Central America. This is in keeping with the spirit of integration espoused by the chiefs of state of the countries that participated in the Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara.

In a resolution passed at its Fourth Party Congress, recently celebrated in Santiago de Cuba, the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] advocated closer trade ties with its neighbors in the hemisphere. The resolution also favored promoting mutually advantageous agreements with foreign investors.

With this in mind, facilities will be given—as quickly as possible—so that in some cases Latin American companies can invest in local business ventures, covering up to 100 percent of the cost of their operations. These opportunities should be advantageous to the two parties.

The invitation, extended by the G-3 to Cuba, to explain the country's political and economic reality at the Cozumel meeting, afforded an opportunity to try to bring about the changes recommended by the Fourth PCC Congress.

The development of joint enterprises in Cuba fortunately has coincided with some Latin American businessmen's need to open new markets. An example of this is the case of Mexico. Soon, a group of businessmen from that country will travel to Cuba to study the real possibilities for direct investment.

Mexico's National Association of the Processing Industry [Canacintra] plans to fine-tune details for future commercial and investment operations and technology transfer. Canacintra also intends to renew the Cuba-Mexico trade agreement and is studying the possibility of having a bank issue a line of credit to Cuba.

Most Mexican private businessmen have called for an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba in these times of economic renewal, when complementary trade is necessary. For its part, Cuba has always seen Latin America as the appropriate and natural stage for its commercial development, despite its membership in eastern Europe's now defunct Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Therefore, Cuba hails the fact that Latin America is looking within itself and encouraging inter-American trade.

Commentary on G-3 Summit

PA2510223191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 91

["Our America" commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] If several countries took positive steps toward integration at the Guadalajara Summit held in July 1991, the recent meeting of the Group of Three [G-3]—Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico—confirms that intention. This objective tends to consolidate the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation among these three nations, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The fourth summit of the G-3—held in Cozumel and called by Mexico—was attended by President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari of Mexico, and President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela. Cuban Chief of State Fidel Castro attended as a special guest.

The G-3 was created in 1989 by the aforementioned countries and it works intensely, not only to accelerate regional integration, but also to endorse peace in Central America, which is essential for development.

Current events in the area determined the advantage of holding this meeting in Cozumel and, in this regard, the final statement of the meeting states its support for the OAS resolutions on Haiti and condemns the coupist government of that Caribbean country.

Peace in Central America is an important topic in the plans of the G-3. In Cozumel, the G-3 recognized the progress of the negotiations between the Salvadoran rebels and the government and encouraged the dialogue between the Guatemalan rebels and government representatives. Both of these negotiations are considered to be on the right path to attain their objectives of peace and development.

An important aspect of this meeting of the G-3 was the intention of accelerating the negotiations aimed at signing a free trade agreement and holding a meeting of communication ministers to discuss transportation between the three countries and Central America.

Furthermore, the chiefs of state of Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico listened with great interest to the concepts of Cuban President Fidel Castro regarding Latin American unity and the present and future of the region. Castro had been invited to the Cozumel meeting. Castro recalled the agenda of the Guadalajara Summit and stated that our America is one, bred by the same factors, stimulated by the same urges, agitated by the same problems, and distressed by the same pains. Therefore, it is only natural that there be a common spirit to fuel equal hopes and search for equal paths.

In other words, through its president's voice, Cuba reiterated its interest for integration with Latin America, common fatherland to all those who inhabit the area.

The determination of Cuba to support the peace processes in Central America, without foreign interference, as well as forming part of the Tlatelolco Treaty, as soon as it is signed by all the countries in the area, was stated in that context.

The presidents of the G-3 reiterated that the negotiated solution to the conflicts between states is a basic guideline for current international events. Thus, they offered their good offices to start approaching the countries with which Cuba may have differences, while maintaining respect for Cuba's legitimate interests.

The Cuban president recalled the friendliness that exists between his country and the rest of Latin America, despite the fact that the United States has always tried to undermine those ties.

Summarizing, the recent summit of the G-3 and the attendance of Cuba as a guest, may be understood as a new and favorable effort for regional peace and development.

Central Committee Member on U.S. Blockade

PA2910153291 Hamburg DPA Spanish 1430 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Bonn, 28 October (DPA)—A high-ranking official in the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) who is currently visiting Germany said on 28 October that Cuba is willing to begin negotiations with the United States. He has a good view of the mediation by the Group of Three (G-3), formed by Latin American presidents who recently met with President Fidel Castro in Cozumel, Mexico.

Dario Lorenzo Machado, member of the PCC Central Committee, participated in an international meeting of Latin American and European leftist parties that was held in Berlin. The participants basically reviewed the current situation in Cuba, and prospects for those political currents in view of ongoing world transformations.

"Any action that could convince the United States that it must change its pathological attitude toward Cuba, to begin negotiations on an equal basis, will be welcomed," Machado said in a DPA interview concerning a Latin American initiative undertaken by Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela to mediate with Washington.

The Berlin meeting was organized by the German ecological-pacifist foundation "Buntstift," which is close to the "Green Party" that recently issued a statement condemning the economic blockade that the United States has been imposing on Cuba for more than 30 years.

"Our position is that we are willing to sit down and discuss" the "end of the U.S. blockade and the U.S. departure from Guantanamo Naval Base, which it illegally occupied" at the end of the last century, said Machado, who is also director of the PCC Central Committee Sociopolitical Research Center.

"We have shown our capacity to talk and to participate in a dialogue, our willingness to find political solutions, and our desire for peace. The same sensible attitude is expected from the United States. Any action that can help to explain the irreversible nature of the Cuban national project of socialism with justice is welcomed," he added.

The next discussion on Cuban-U.S. relations will be aired at the UN General Assembly, which included the subject of the U.S. blockade in its 4 November agenda.

The Cubans also appreciate "Spain's friendly and respectful attitude toward Cuba," which proves that "formulas for harmony and cooperation can be developed regardless of our ideologies. Cuban-Spanish relations are currently being strengthened and increased."

"King Juan Carlos of Spain has been invited to visit Cuba, but the most appropriate time for the visit must be determined. Given recent events and the increasing (Cuban-Spanish) cooperation, there are increased possibilities for achieving these exchanges."

Following the dialogue Presidents Cesar Gaviria, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and Carlos Andres Perez started with Fidel Castro on the Mexican island of Cozumel, "there must be a continuation," asserted the Cuban communist.

"We must use all forums and all opportunities to continue the Latin American will for integration." The fact that the blockade issue has been included in the assembly agenda "represents a diplomatic success for us."

"The only position we can adopt is to demand the suspension of the blockade (which was mentioned 22 days after the triumph of the revolution in January 1959), because it is unfair. Furthermore, it is obsolete, and untenable in our current world."

The United States cannot refuse to participate in the UN discussion and political debate, because this would completely disqualify the nation," stated the Cuban communist official. "Whenever the United States paricipates in a debate, it will not have strong arguments to defend" the blockade against Cuba.

Commentary on Results of Colombian Elections

PA2910214691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 91

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Colombia—under apparent calm, where approximately 70 percent of the voters did not go to the polls, and with results that demonstrate a break with the past traditional conservative-liberal two-party rule—held elections for deputies, senators, and governors. Highway accidents and the arrest of 30 persons accused of attempting electoral fraud were the only incidents registered on election day. According to some observers, the poor turnout at the polls was no surprise to anyone,

given the confusion caused by the large number of candidates and lists that had to be unraveled before casting a vote.

Nevertheless, election in this round set out some important guidelines. For the first time in the nation's history, the Colombians elected 27 department governors, who previously were appointed by the president. In addition, the traditional dominant conservative-liberal two-party rule was broken by the rising presence at the polls of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], the party that had demonstrated its popularity in past elections held to choose persons to draw up a new constitution.

The new Colombian political picture presents changes worth considering. It must be stressed that these elections, the first held since the new constitution was drawn up in July, are a result of this constitution. The new Constituent Assembly resolved to recess the Congress and to hold new elections, and to elect the governors by direct popular vote instead of having the president appoint them, as was done in the past. These elections, however, established the ruling Liberal Party's victory that gained the majority in both houses and in the department governorships. In the Senate, the Democratic New Force [NFD], a neoconservative party, came in second; and the AD/M-19 was in third place. The change was even more striking in the Congress, where the AD/M-19 came in second place, followed by the NFD.

According to what President Cesar Gaviria announced, an immediate cabinet shuffle is expected in order to keep up with the changes produced by the outcome of the election.

It is true that liberalism has retained control, but the AD/M-19, which is currently at the helm of the Health Ministry, could be awarded another ministry; the same holds true for the NFD. Some analysts believe that the victory of liberalism is a result of the measures implemented to date by President Cesar Gaviria, who is bent on a resolute struggle against drug trafficking and corruption. Nevertheless, they admit that the rising presence of AD/M-19 is the result of the Colombian people's aspirations for changes that will pave the way for a new generation of politicians, free from the vices that traditionally have prevailed in partisan circles. In addition, it is anticipated that from now on the new Constitution, which was debated on for many months by representatives from all the political sectors, will be enforced.

Lage, Chavez Explore Means To Fight Delinquency

FL2910142091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] The presidents of Havana's 93 People's Councils have met to explore practical means of fighting delinquency in their neighborhoods. Politburo member Carlos Lage attended the 12th meeting of these government leaders. Lage urged participation in prevention and vigilance attempts against delinquent acts in commercial centers and establishments. Several of the presidents of the People's Councils asked for more support from the police, judicial organs, and political and mass organizations. Later on during the meeting, Carlos Lage and Pedro Chavez, president of the Assembly of the People's Government of City of Havana Province, pointed out that the illegal construction of houses must be stopped because they are built with materials stolen or diverted from social projects. Pedro Chavez also said during the meeting that in the midst of the special period, a fight against loafers must be mounted, in addition to the fight against delinquency.

Barbados

Government Calls Union Ultimatum Unreasonable

FL2910165591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1526 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 29, CANA—Barbados trade unions' six-day ultimatum, expiring Wednesday [30 October], for a roll-back of austerity measures, was unreasonable and could threaten the welfare of more workers, the government said in a response and call for dialogue.

"In my view, a six-day ultimatum to redress the matters of such grave and fundamental import hardly falls within the bounds of reasonableness," Deputy Prime Minister Philip Greaves said in a letter to a coalition of unions and associations, a copy of which was published by the ADVOCATE newspaper Tuesday.

The coalition last Thursday attracted 20,000 persons in a march against International Monetary Fund-backed austerity measures, and gave a written ultimatum to Greaves, then acting for Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford. The ultimatum called for reversal of an eight-percent public sector pay cut, adequate procedures for layoffs now underway, payment of all monies in lieu of notice, reversal of a lowering of unemployment and severance benefits, controlled prices for staple food items, and an IMF-coalition meeting.

Sandiford returned from a three-week overseas visit Sunday afternoon, as the third demonstration in four days was beginning, and Greaves sent the letter, signed in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister, Monday.

"Your deadline comes one day after the prime minister returns to his desk, and certainly cannot give me sufficient time to meet and arrive at a decision on the issues that will not compromise the position of Barbados," Greaves said in the letter to coalition chairman Leroy Trotman. He said the measures were imposed reluctantly and with awareness of the distress to be caused, but the alternatives would have meant "in the medium and long term, even greater pain and suffering."

"It has been the government's hope, and the hope still persists, that your unions could see fit, albeit reluctantly,

to give the government's programmes the chance to work and, I am confident, to succeed. Otherwise, believe me, Sir, the well-being of thousands more of the members which the unions represent would be thrown into jeopardy. Neither you nor I want this," the deputy prime minister said.

"As regards the substantive matters on which you seek a resolution, some of them are fundamental to the recovery programme (being pursued by government), others can be resolved more expeditiously. These can be identified for early discussion," he added. Citing earlier dialogue between the trade unions and government as the 18-month structural adjustment programme began taking shape, Greaves expressed hope that the unions "will not be averse to informal meetings from time to time that can only assist the process to which we all profess to aim."

The coalition had threatened to intensify industrial action, including a possible shutdown of offices, unless its demands were met. Opposition parties staged a protest march and a motorcade at the weekend and plan further protests against the austerity measures, while the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA) has planned a business shutdown for November 11 against reimposition of duties on inputs for industry.

The Sandiford government, facing a recent trend of economic contraction, this month finalised a letter of intent for the IMF, even as it implemented measures to ease fiscal and external deficits, as a step towards accessing U.S. 58.1 million dollars in IMF credits.

Unions Reserved on Government Response

FL3010023891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2213 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 29, CANA—Barbados trade union leaders withheld response Tuesday to government's announcement that it could not meet a Wednesday ultimatum for reversal of austerity measures. A leading member of the union coalition told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY it would respond if it secured a meeting with the government, possibly Wednesday [30 October]. Failing this, it would make an "appropriate response when the time is right," he said.

The coalition of unions and associations, after a march last Thursday to protest current structural adjustment measures, threatened further industrial action, including a possible shutdown of the country, if several of the government measures were not reversed.

The ultimatum called for reversal of an 8 per cent public sector pay cut, adequate procedures for layoffs now underway, payment of all monies in lieu of notice, reversal of a lowering of unemployment and severance benefits, controlled prices for staple food items, and an International Monetary Fund-coalition meeting.

On Tuesday one of the unions considered a private sector request for discussion on wage restraint or cuts in the sector.

"We are following up some initiatives which have been taken by the government and I'm hoping that tomorrow we may have a meeting with government in which we explore areas where the possibility might exist for us to set up for a much fuller meeting," coalition leader Leroy Trotman said.

Deputy Prime Minister Phillip Greaves on Monday wrote Trotman hoping for continued dialogue and saying the six-day ultimatum to government was unreasonable since the issues raised were grave and of "fundamental import."

The austerity measures are being implemented in a government structural adjustment programme to correct serious fiscal and balance of payments deficits and to qualify for U.S. 58.1 million dollars in International Monetary Fund credits.

Meanwhile, the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), representing most private sector workers, was preparing to meet Tuesday evening to consider a Barbados Employers' Confederation call for dialogue on private sector proposals for wage cuts and-or a wage freeze to help the sector cope with the adjustment programme.

A coalition source said the BWU was first discussing the matter with its union officials and was expected to consult later with its coalition colleagues. The confederation has suggested a two-year private sector wage freeze to September, 1993, not applicable to first agreements, on which the employers want unions to exercise restraint in negotiating. The confederation also said it wants to consult unions to ascertain the views of workers on the possibility of implementing pay cuts.

The private sector employers are also suggesting revision of work rules and job descriptions to create improvements in productivity as a means of reducing job losses.

More than 250 business houses shut down last Thursday morning in sympathy with a 20,000 strong protest march organised by the coalition of unions and associations. A private sector statement said the shutdown was in protest at "unconstitutional" action by government in legislating the 8 per cent public sector pay cut.

Dominican Republic

Adverse Effects of OAS Sanctions Noted

FL2910183691 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1629 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral has affirmed that the Dominican Republic is the country most affected by the sanctions imposed by the Organization of American States [OAS] against Haiti. He said

that the country will receive an avalanche of Haitians trying to improve their economic situation. He pointed out that the Dominican Republic is not ready to receive a large number of Haitian immigrants as a result of the sanctions imposed by the OAS.

Herrera Cabral spoke with reporters while attending a meeting of the Joint Hispano-Dominican Commission at the Foreign Ministry Building.

Grenada

Aristide 'First Haitian Leader To Visit Grenada'

FL2910145291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1239 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Oct 29, CANA—Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will pay official visits to Grenada and Dominica over the next week. Aristide, campaigning for the restoration of democracy in Haiti following a September 30 military coup, will arrive in Grenada on November 3, following a two-day visit to Dominica, William Joseph, a Grenada Foreign Ministry official, told CANA.

Aristide, currently living in exile in Venezuela since being overthrown, will arrive in Dominica on Friday, accompanied by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, the Venezuelan ambassador in Roseau, Hector Griffin, said. Their visit has been timed to coincide with celebrations marking Dominica's 13th anniversary of independence.

Joseph said Aristide was expected to meet leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) during his stay in Dominica. It was unclear how long Aristide would remain here. However, his programme of activities here includes an address to a public rally. Aristide will be the first Haitian leader to visit Grenada.

Haiti

Aristide Dissatisfied With Embargo Measures

FL2910234091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1245 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Jean-Bertrand Aristide, while visiting Europe, has said he is not satisfied with embargo measures. Today in Brussels, President Aristide called for tighter controls regarding the international embargo against Haiti due to the existence of traditional smuggling channels that have always made corruption easier. He said during a news conference that the embargo is not being properly applied.

Aristide also criticized the weakness of the United States and the Vatican's responses to the military coup. He said that their messages of support, which he has received, have not been definitive and that he could not appreciate the honesty of the United States unless they demonstrate concrete willingness to respect the embargo.

Pro-Aristide Demonstration in Martinique

FL2910205091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Two Haitian parliamentarians have participated in a demonstration in Fort-de-France, Martinique. They are Ernst Pedro Caseus, former president of the Parliament and a Movement for the Organization of the Country deputy and Wesner Emmanuel, a National Front for Change and Democracy senator. They participated in this demonstration on 26 October in Fort-de-France, Martinique. The demonstration was held in favor of the return of the overthrown president.

The demonstration attracted several organizations. Two hundred to 300 people waved pictures of the overthrown president, chanting hostile slogans against General Raoul Cedras. Other placards promoted solidarity between Martinique and Haiti. Both parliamentarians met with Martinique deputies, Aime Cesaire and Guy (Lardineau). The parliamentarians will travel within the next few days to Montreal, Washington, and Caracas, Venezuela.

Senate Urges Government To Rectify Situation

FL2910204791 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The Senate of the Republic has adopted a resolution that states that following the 30 September events that resulted in the overthrow of the former government a situation is developing which needs correcting. The Senate reminds everyone that the initial agreement was that no one should have to take to the bush, that is there would be no witch hunt.

The Senate also says that all sectors in the country are gathering under one idea which is to save the country through a national unity government. Despite this, there is a group of individuals regarded as people who used to commit excesses under the previous regimes and who are proscribed by the law who are now acting, speaking to create confusion.

The Republic Senate urges the public powers to be to take all possible steps to put this situation right. This resolution is signed by Senate President Dejean Belizaire.

Government 'Allegedly' Agrees To OAS Mission

FL2910220691 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] The Haitian Provisional Government has allegedly agreed to receive a new OAS mission. AFP reports that the government has agreed to receive a new OAS mission. According to these officials, who were speaking on the condition of anonymity, Senate President Dejean Belizaire has reportedly informed the OAS secretary general of this decision taken by the government.

No date has been fixed for the departure of the OAS delegation, which will be headed by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, a former Colombian foreign affairs minister. The delegation's purpose will be to demand the return of the former president who was ousted by a military coup on 30 September. The OAS, which has already demanded economic sanctions against Haiti, declares that it does not acknowledge the appointment of Judge Joseph Nerette in accordance with the Constitution of the country.

Junta Agrees To Meet Delegation

FL2910153291 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Haiti says it will now allow a delegation from the Organization of American States to Port-au-Prince. The military junta at first refused to talk with the OAS. The delegation will now discuss the possible return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, as well as a threatened trade embargo against Haiti. No date for the meeting has been arranged as yet.

Deputy Views OAS Negotiations

FL3010001991 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Report by Jean-Marie Ferari on the Chamber of Deputy session which heard a report given by Joseph Lambert, a member of the delegation sent to the OAS, at the Legislative Palace in Port-au- Prince on 28 October]

[Text] [Ferari] Today, the Chamber of Deputies met in a closed session to listen to Deputy Joseph Lambert, a member of the parliamentary delegation that went to Washington to meet with the OAS on 19 October. Deputy Lambert, an observer member of the negotiating delegation composed of Senators Guy Bauduy and Eddy Dupiton, presented his report to the Chamber. Lambert informed the deputies of the OAS decision to send a civilian mission to Haiti. No information was released on the resolutions taken in the session. However, after the session, Chamber President Brutus told us that the Chamber had established committees which would work on the OAS decision and that a resolution would be released within the next day or two.

We are going to listen to Deputy Gerard Evans Beaubrun's comments on today's session. He thinks the OAS civilian mission should be strictly civilian.

[Begin recording] [Beaubrun] The Chamber of Deputies sent an observer as part of the parliamentary committee that went to negotiate with the OAS. Deputy Lamber was that observer. He made his report to the Chamber of Deputies meeting in camera. All the deputies were there. There were 46 deputies present. We listened to the report that our colleague, who accompanied the delegation as an observer, made to us.

[Unidentified reporter] What was the result of these (?negotiations)? Something must have been decided even though...

[Beaubrun, interrupting] Well, (?listen), I do not think that anything special was decided. We simply heard the report because...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Did the Chamber establish any committees?

[Beaubrun] Anyway, the Chamber will meet tomorrow and the day after. A news conference will then be held to disclose the Chamber of Deputies' plans in view of the OAS's proposal to send a civilian mission to Haiti to negotiate with the many organizations that constitute the Haitian political class, and so on.

Of course, the Chamber of Deputies will have to disclose its position in view of the arrival of the OAS mission that is scheduled to come to Haiti—I do not know when. Decisions will have to be made so a civilian—a strictly civilian—mission can come, but that mission will meet with all the country's sectors. [end recording]

[Ferari] Remember, the Senate was very opposed to a civilian mission. It prefers an OAS delegation to a civilian mission. It wants a dialogue to be held between all the parties so a solution to the crisis can be found.

St. Lucia

Regional Supreme Court Chief Justice Appointed

FL3010011091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1837 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Oct 29, CANA—Vincent Floissac, a senior St. Lucian lawyer and a former acting governor-general, will be sworn in on Friday as the new chief justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, legal sources said. Floissac, 63, will succeed Jamaican-born Sir Lascelles Robotham who recently retired. Educated at London University, Floissac currently serves as a judge of the Seychelles Court of Appeal.

A senior partner of the law firm Floissac and Giraudy, Floissac is married to Marilyn Floissac, resident tutor of the University of the West Indies Extra Mural Department here. One of his two daughters, Brenda, is a lawyer and a member of his law firm. An avid sportsman, Floissac has represented St. Lucia at both table and lawn tennis.

Trinidad and Tobago

Police Probe Allegedly Reveals 'Syndicate'

FL2910204991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Oct 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago police shared information with U.S. authorities that led to the arrest and conviction of

Trinidadian Paul Mansoor for cocaine trafficking, National Security Minister Joseph Toney said.

Mansoor, jailed in September for 63 months for bringing five kilos of cocaine into the U.S.A. through Miami airport, is at the centre of controversy here related to testimonials written on his behalf by Chief Justice Clinton Bernard and Health Minister Selwyn Richardson. Both Bernard and Richardson, who were asked to write the testimonials by Robert Mansoor, the defendant's father, denied knowing Paul was facing a drug charge when they wrote the letters.

Toney told Parliament Monday [28 October] he had ordered a full report from Police Commissioner Jules Bernard since the opposition People's National Movement was alleging that Mansoor was not arrested here because high officials of the state, and ministers of government, had prevented his arrest. Toney said the report revealed that Mansoor was involved in drug trafficking with a "drug syndicate" comprising "big" businessmen based in San Fernando, the country's second major town.

Mansoor was checked over a period of time at the airport, but no drugs were found on him, the National Security minister said. Toney, however, said that one day last May, Mansoor passed through the airport without being checked by a narcotics officer because of a shortage of personnel. He said Mansoor had slipped through while the lone officer on duty was checking the baggage of other suspects.

"After the departure of the last flight that morning, the narcotics officer on duty checked the passenger manifest of all the airlines and realised that Paul Mansoor, the drug trafficker, was a passenger on board BWIA 424 destined for Miami," Toney told Parliament. "Accordingly, the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) at Barbados was informed for the information of the DEA in Miami as we do not have any relationship with the DEA personnel in Miami. The exchange of information is standard practice in this office." Authorities here subsequently received word from the U.S. of Mansoor's arrest for trafficking in cocaine.

First Stage of Bank Privatization Plan Complete

PA3010044191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0137 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government has collected, in Mexican pesos, the equivalent of $16.323 billion from the sale of eight banks as part of the privatization program initiated in June.

According to the official announcement, the sale of Bancomer [Bank of Commerce], the country's second largest bank, was concluded on 29 October. The bank was purchased by businessmen from the north of Mexico, who bid $2.54 billion, 29 percent above the bank's book value.

Early in 1991, the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari saw it fit to reestablish the joint system in banking and lending operations. Consequently, 18 banks were put up for sale to the highest bidder.

With the measure, the banks nationalized in 1982 by then president Jose Lopez Portillo would return to private hands.

The Mercantile Multibank of Mexico was the first to be privatized on 11 June, when its ownership was transferred to the stock exchange firm Probursa, a multiple operations enterprise, for $2.317 billion.

Industrialists from the country's north purchased Banpais on 17 June in an operation that yielded $1.816 billion to the Mexican Government.

Before the end of June, Banca Cremi, with 92 branches and 5,000 employees, passed into the hands of businessmen from the state of Jalisco, in the country's west, for the equivalent of $2.493 billion.

Banca Confia is another of the banks bought by powerful groups from Mexico's north headed by Jorge Lankenau, who owns the Abaco stock exchange. On 5 August and backed by 3,000 shareholders, he bid the highest sum, $2.080 billion.

In what constitutes the operation involving the least money so far, Ricardo Margain Margen, another northern industrialist, bought Banco de Oriente, the fifth privatized bank, for $744,000.

Headed by Roberto Alcantara and Carlos Mendoza, a group of businessmen from the country's center purchased Bancreser on 18 August for $1.413 billion.

The National Bank of Mexico [Banamex], regarded as Latin America's largest, was auctioned off on 26 August and sold for $3.2 billion, the highest sum paid for any one bank in Mexico.

Roberto Hernandez, owner of the Accival stock exchange and now president of Banamex' board of directors, became the bank's owner with the support of the bank's 800 shareholders.

With the sale of Bancomer, the first stage of bank privatization proposed by Salinas' government, which will complete its first three years on 1 November, was concluded on 29 October.

On 29 August, the British weekly FINANCIAL TIMES commented that "the great Mexican businessmen have sparked the privatization of the country's banking system."

According to official estimates, Serfin, Comermex, International, Atlantic, BCH, Confia, Banaorte, Promex, Bancrecer, and Banco del Centro, the remaining 10 banks, should have been sold halfway through 1992.

National Bank Grants Cuba $300 Million Credit

PA3010033491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0011 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomext) of Mexico will grant Cuba a credit for about $300 million, which will serve as a guarantee for Mexican businessmen to invest in that country, it was reported here 29 October.

A delegation of Mexican businessmen went to Cuba on 29 October to establish commercial exchange agreements, Alfredo Lopez, spokesman of Mexico's National Association of the Processing Industry (Canacintra), told NOTIMEX.

The spokesman said the Bancomext financing, between $150 and $300 million, will help the Cuban Government guarantee its payments to Mexican industrialists who invest in that nation.

He said the credit may be approved during the Mexican industrialists' visit.

The businessmen's delegation, comprised of approximately 50 persons who represent a similar number of companies affiliated with the Canacintra, will visit on 30 October Havana's IX International Fair, which is scheduled to end on 4 November.

Canacintra President Roberto Sanchez de la Vara will meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro on 30 October to review the possibility of approving increased bilateral trade, Lopez revealed.

The group also includes approximately 20 important businessmen, who will attend a meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Committee of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs (CEMAI).

According to the Canacintra spokesman, the Mexican mission has "firm plans" to invest in the metal products industry, food industry, chemical industry (does not include oil products), and capital assets.

Mexico exported $93.7-million worth of products to Cuba in 1990, while the Caribbean island sold this country $65.7-million worth of merchandise.

Canacintra includes 85,000 enterprises that handle about 60 percent of Mexico's production plants.

PEMEX Official Denies Selling Crude to Cuba

PA2910201791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Oct (AFP)—The state-owned Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) company has not sold crude oil to Cuba, but it has sold different amounts of diesel, turbine engine fuel and sulphur in recent months, a PEMEX spokesman told AFP on 28 October.

The spokesman said that PEMEX sent 180,000 barrels of diesel and 100,000 barrels of turbine engine fuel to Havana last April. He added that PEMEX sold five tons of sulphur to Cuba in June; 30,000 barrels of diesel in July; 10 tons of sulphur in August, and the same amount of the latter product in September.

Raul Hudlet, who is responsible for the energy policy in the Mexican Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry, told NOTIMEX, the official Mexican news agency, that Cuba has received two shipments of petroleum of up to 240,000 barrels each. He said this in Caracas, where he is attending a meeting of the Latin American Energy Organization.

The PEMEX spokesman explained that Mexico sold petroleum by-products to the island government.

He stated that PEMEX only sells crude oil through contracts, while there are exceptions in the case of petroleum by-products. In addition, he did not specify whether more by-products will be sold to the Cuban Government.

Cuba has had petroleum supply problems in the last few months, because of the reduction of its commercial exchange with the USSR. Deliveries from Ecuador, however, have reportedly supplied part of its needs.

Cuban President Fidel Castro, who was a special guest at a summit of the Group of Three (G-3) held on the Mexican island of Cozumel, has said that his country did not ask to join the San Jose Pact, whereby Mexico and Venezuela sell hydrocarbons under preferential conditions to the Caribbean and Central America countries.

El Salvador

President Cristiani Assesses Political Scene

PA3010041991 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 2338 GMT 28 Oct 91

[News conference by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] Mr. Segovia of Radio Cadena YSKL.

[Segovia] My question is not related to the Central American Parliament [Parlacen], but to the clamor of our people who are hopefully following the peace efforts between your government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Although Mr. Alvaro de Soto has expressed doubts, do you think it is possible to sign a peace agreement before the end of the year?

[Cristiani] I believe a definitive cease-fire can be signed before the end of the year. This would be followed by the actual process to establish peace in the country. As I have said on many occasions, this requires flexibility and goodwill on both sides. We hope that the FMLN will attend the next meeting with an open and constructive attitude toward finally bringing peace to the Salvadoran people.

I am optimistic about the FMLN representatives' remarks at the most recent meeting in Mexico that they are also optimistic about the possibility of achieving a cease-fire before the end of the year. Unless my memory is failing me, I believe they said it was feasible for El Salvador to spend Christmas in peace. I hope they are truly determined to offer peace to the people. We believe that with the necessary flexibility, the abridged agenda agreed upon in Mexico can be covered before the end of the year.

[Moderator] Guillermo Penate Zambrano of EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Penate] Mr. President. It has been said that the Parlacen was created in response to pressure from the EEC. In other words, if there is no Parlacen, some European credits would not be received. Is that true? Regarding the political situation, it seems contradictory: while peace talks are taking place, sabotage continues. The day after a bridge has been blown up, the government says there is goodwill. Will the FMLN be asked to stop disrupting the people's peace and tranquility?

[Cristiani] As far as we know, there has been no pressure from the EEC on either the Salvadoran Government or the political parties that ratified the treaty and protocol for the Parlacen. The EEC did offer to give financial assistance to Parlacen. In fact, high-level EEC representatives attended the ceremony in Guatemala City today, and Fernando Suarez [member of the EEC Commission for Latin America] delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. Our decision to participate in Parlacen was not made under pressure. It was a voluntary decision. We believe that parliamentary debate among the various political forces of our countries will benefit the region. It will bring Central American peoples closer and contribute to regional integration.

Regarding your second question, that is exactly what I meant when I replied to the first question. Attaining peace requires goodwill on both sides. The government has always been willing to reach an agreement to end the current situation, complete the negotiations, and agree on a definitive cease-fire as soon as possible. When I said that the FMLN must send the same signals of goodwill, I was not only referring to statements they have made, but to specific actions and attitudes behind those statements. The FMLN has been carrying out destructive actions in our country. We understand that those actions are based on a strategy that we feel is absolutely mistaken; i.e., that this is a way to exert pressure on the negotiations. We have always said that negotiations should benefit the people. Therefore, we will not accept blackmail through violence. We will not accept actions that do not benefit the people.

[Moderator] Mariana Melgar of Teleprensa.

[Melgar] Once a cease-fire agreement has been reached, what steps would be taken in the dialogue process? What mechanism must be used to ensure a definitive peace agreement is signed? Will there be direct talks between both sides? What will the mechanism be?

[Cristiani] Once the New York Agreements were signed, we could conclude that all negotiations would be finished before a definitive cease-fire agreement was reached. Once a cease-fire agreement is signed, there will be no more negotiations. The implementation of the agreement will be conducted according to a schedule, which is one of the points still to be discussed. We have to agree on a schedule.

To a certain extent, we can also conclude from the New York Agreements that the cease-fire has a short and flexible time limit. We believe this means, and we understand this is the way the United Nations interprets it, that the cease-fire period, which lasts until the FMLN disarms, demobilizes, and joins the peaceful institutional and civilian life of the country, is a predetermined, short, and flexible time period. It is flexible in the sense that work will be done toward disarmament and demobilization as an armed group. They will have their own options if they want to continue as a political but totally unarmed group. We do not foresee any more direct talks on this issue because there is nothing more to negotiate. If difficulties arise in implementing the agreements, for either the FMLN or the government, the Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] has been tasked with evaluating the process. It will determine if the agreements are being fulfilled. We do

not foresee any more direct talks. The definitive cease-fire is really the beginning of peace. That was the definition given to the term in New York.

[Moderator] Mr. Ballena from TCS News.

[Ballena] Mr. President, if you will permit me, I will ask two questions. The first one is related to local newspaper reports of a 50-percent cut in U.S. military aid to El Salvador. The second question is related to serious rumors about a huge cocaine shipment being confiscated by the Salvadoran Government.

[Cristiani] As for U.S. military aid to El Salvador, it is the same as in 1991. Given the fact that a few discussions have occurred between the U.S. Government and Congress, a continuing resolution has been issued. This means that the law governing foreign aid for 1991 has automatically been extended with the same terms for 1992. We understand this has occurred due to the events in the Middle East, as a result of the peace process in that region. This means 50 percent of the funds are frozen, just like they were in 1991. President Bush will decide if there are enough reasons to release the funds, just as it happened with the 1991 aid. It is a continuation of the 1991 law. [seven-second break in reception]

Regarding your second question, the secretary of information will read an official communique at the end of this conference.

[Moderator] Mr. Ruiz of the [12-second break in reception]

[Reporter, in progress from reception break] ...that already established their internal regulation. They will also discuss a bill to establish a juridical organization, because they claim that, as Copaz, they do not feel empowered to supervise the agreements. Do you think this is necessary?

[Cristiani] No. I really think that everything would come from the bill, which the Legislative Assembly may approve, granting Copaz the authority to verify and oversee FMLN and government compliance with the agreements. We do not believe anything else is necessary. If the law empowers an entity to carry out its task, this is more than enough. The regulation that was approved [seven-second break in reception] In other words, what is taking place now, and the bill and regulations of Copaz after the cease-fire has gone into effect, are being analyzed and considered. I understand these issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

However, I believe that the bill the Assembly may approve to create Copaz should grant verification and oversight powers to that organization to ensure compliance with the agreements. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Maria Dolores Alveag of UNOMASUNO.

[Alveag] Mr. President, compared to last year, there seems to be a discrepancy in local reports on military aid, which is extended to all countries under the same conditions. In the case of El Salvador, however, a clause would be introduced to prevent President Bush from releasing more than $3.5 million each time he decides to unfreeze funds. It appears that this is related to the somehow critical opinions of Congressmen Joe Moakley on the public hearing in the Jesuit case. I want you to comment on the atmosphere at the U.S. Congress and whether or not this is true.

[Cristiani] With respect to the laws issued by the U.S. Congress, no modification has been introduced. If you estimate the amount of monthly military aid that must be eliminated to arrive at the 50-percent figure, you will see that it is equal to $3.6 million per month. I understand that this is the monthly military allowance for El Salvador, according to the U.S. Government report to Congress. This is not a restriction or precondition within the Foreign Aid Bill, because no changes have been made. This resolution has been extended, meaning that the 1991 operating budget will be in force for next year.

[Moderator] Pablo Yacus of IPS has the floor.

[Yacus] [words indistinct]

[Cristiani] Well, I think that sometimes things are judged based on the internal situation of another country, and one does not really appreciate the conditions, atmosphere, and scenario that exist in other countries. At this point, I think that sometimes one loses sight of the positive or negative part of an incident, which results in confusion. This behavior is sometimes natural because each person believes that he is in his own country and things should take place in a different way. Regarding our country, I think this represents a considerable step in the administration of justice in El Salvador. [passage omitted]

[Mojica] Mojica from Radio Centro. Mr. President, returning to the subject of negotiations, I would like to ask what you think about the Army's morale at this stage. I would also like to know what you think about the guerrilla's morale.

[Cristiani] I think the Armed Forces continue to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations. They continue to fight and have high morale. We have not observed any changes in the Armed Forces' morale.

I really cannot express any opinion on the FMLN's morale. All I can say is that we have observed in recent weeks and months more persons leaving guerrilla forces, turning over their weapons, and saying they do not wish to remain with the guerrillas. I do not know if this a general feeling. I think the important thing is to be positive that this situation will end as soon as possible.

[Moderator] We have one last question from Mr. Colombo from the Associated Press.

[Colombo, in English] Concerning the makeup of the commission that will deal with the question of the evaluation or purge of the Army, is it the government's

position that the members of that commission must be Salvadorans, or could it be negotiable to some extent? Could some members be foreigners?

[Cristiani, in English] No, we feel they should be Salvadorans. I think that this is a Salvadoran problem and as everybody has said before, it should be solved by Salvadorans. I could not agree less with anybody who says we cannot find three honorable people who can do the job here in El Salvador. In that respect, our position is that they have to be Salvadorans.

[Moderator] Any other questions in English? [audience laughs]

[Unidentified speaker] Mr. President, I am going to speak in Spanglish. [laughter] Concerning the negotiations, some guerrilla leaders recently voiced their opinions about the most recent meeting in Mexico. It has been said that although some progress has been made on the Armed Forces issue, some topics are still being discussed. The leaders said there were some topics that were sort of a Gordian knot on the possible creation of a public security ministry. My question is: Do you think this ministry should be under civilian or military supervision? Apparently this was a matter of discussion.

My other question is on the creation of the ad hoc commission. How does the government feel about this commission?

[Cristiani] Unless some FMLN members are confused, we have always said that the National Civilian Police will be under civilian command. There should be no doubt about this because from the very beginning we have accepted it. Perhaps something that has not yet been defined, but that we do not consider a Gordian knot, is whether the National Civilian Police should be under the Interior Ministry. It could be a vice ministry of public security under the Interior Ministry.

Perhaps we could organize a new ministry that would entail a greater bureaucracy under what is already a large bureaucracy in El Salvador. However, we believe we could allocate these funds for other areas, such as education, public health, housing, etc. We feel these police could very well be under a vice ministry in the Interior Ministry, as was the original situation in our country. I see all of you are younger than I, so you might not remember those days. Prior to Interior Minister Martinez, the National Police were under the Interior Ministry. Later on, they came under the Defense Ministry. That is the difference, but the police must be under civilians. There is no doubt about this, and there is no problem.

[Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] As I said earlier, they must be Salvadorans, and that is our firm stand. This is a Salvadoran problem, and I think it must be solved by Salvadorans. I do not believe anyone here thinks that we cannot find three honorable people in our country who can do this job and that we must resort to foreigners. Foreigners would not really be familiar with the background of the problem that has prevailed in our country for all these years. I think the Salvadorans have greater experience and will be able to carry out the task assigned them. From that point of view, we believe that Salvadorans should do the job. If anyone is to evaluate an institution in El Salvador, he should be a Salvadoran and not a foreigner. The country's sovereignty demands it.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you gentlemen of the press.

Guatemala

U.S. Aid Depends on Human Rights Report

PA2910190391 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Oct 91 p 8

[Text] U.S. economic assistance will depend on President George Bush's report to the U.S. Congress on the human rights situation in Guatemala and the status of the trial of the individuals responsible for the murder of anthropologist Myrna Mack Chang and U.S. citizen Michael Devine.

On 21 December 1990, the U.S. Government suspended military assistance to the Guatemalan Army due to human rights violations and the massacre in Santiago Atitlan in which 13 Indians were killed at the main entrance to the military base in Panabaj.

On that occasion, the U.S. Government stated that "regrettably, in view of those events we have reached the conclusion that it would be inappropriate to continue normal military assistance with the Guatemalan Government at this time. Therefore, we will immediately discontinue the delivery of military aid."

* Electricity Rationing To Last 'Indefinitely'

92CA0002C Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Sep 91 p 4

[Excerpt] The electricity rationing will continue indefinitely and has nothing to do with the increase in rates, Minister of Energy Carlos Leonel Hurtarte declared. The real cause of the rationing, the minister said, is the decrease in the volume of water in the reservoir of the Chixoy River Hydroelectric Plant.

So long as there is no increase in rainfall to raise the water level, he added, it will be impossible to produce sufficient energy to meet the national demand.

Hurtarte said that the rationing makes it possible to recharge the volume of water in the reservoir. For example, he declared, last Sunday's cutoffs alone caused the level to rise 14 cm, and this should make it possible to gradually restore the normal level and thereby maintain power generation. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Finance Minister Views Military Spending

PA2910151091 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report by Francisco Valeriano Giron]

[Text] Benjamin Villanueva, finance and public credit minister, has ratified the Honduran position not to accept the reduction in military spending as a precondition to receive financing from international organizations.

In Bangkok recently, 16,000 delegates and governors from different international financial organizations met for an extensive analysis of the world financial situation. They made some decisions and issued some opinions. They expressed their views on military spending, particularly for developed countries. Benjamin Villanueva, finance and public credit minister, refers to the discussions on the aforementioned issue:

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] The speeches by the presidents of the World Bank and the IMF clearly stated that a worldwide effort was required to reduce military spending. They stated that the IMF was once criticized because issuing such recommendations was not part of its responsibilities. However, the IMF leader read the article that empowers him to monitor and supervise the spending and the fiscal deficits of the member governments. Military spending is part of the total government spending; in keeping with this, they recommended that it would be prudent to revise military spending.

If you allow me: Greater emphasis is currently being placed on revising the military spending of industrialized countries, because they have a large amount of resources destined for military spending. If a small portion of the military spending from industrialized countries was destined for countries such as ours, we would solve a lot of our problems.

It is not a matter of visualizing the reduction of military spending in poor countries such as Honduras, where, for example, a 50 percent reduction in the military budget would only amount to 120 million lempiras. It is a matter of creating greater awareness in the international financial community so the magnitude of military spending, which would yield favorable results if it were destined for our countries, can be fully appreciated.

[Reporter] Does this indicate that military spending should also be reduced in Honduras?

[Villanueva] I would rather not comment on this, because this is not the issue of discussion. We have not discussed the military spending of Honduras. I want to make it clear that this is not the issue here. I am referring to what the international community is discussing. We have not discussed the issue of military spending in Honduras.

[Reporter] However, President Callejas has stated that he will not accept conditions to reduce the Army in exchange for foreign aid.

[Villanueva] Yes, indeed. Our position is not to propose a revision of military spending as a precondition for receiving aid. We support making a worldwide effort to direct more resources from industrialized countries to our countries. [end recording]

Villanueva explained that this is not a precondition imposed by the international financial organizations.

[Begin Villanueva recording] It is a condition, and we have accepted it as such in the negotiations with the international financial organizations. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

He was finally questioned on the privatization of Hondutel [Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise] and ENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] services.

[Begin Villanueva recording] I think that these reports are somehow confused. We have analyzed the privatization of ENEE. We have reached an agreement with the labor union, after difficult negotiations, that the services would not be privatized. We have not even considered this possibilitywith regard to Hondutel. [end recording]

Panama

Legislator Campaigns for Permanent U.S. Bases

PA2510001091 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Oct 91 p 18

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance [Molirena] Legislator Leo Gonzalez, who has launched a campaign in favor of the permanence of the U.S. bases in Panama past 2000, has announced that an interinstitutional committee has been created to work toward that objective. The committee has already proposed that in 1994 there be a referendum, parallel with the 1994 presidential elections, to ask the people whether they agree or disagree with the U.S. soldiers remaining in the country.

Gonzalez said that the committee is composed of groups in favor of the U.S. military bases remaining in Panama. The committee includes Local 907 labor union, members of the Legislative Assembly, contractors with jobs in the canal area, canal employees, the Chamber of Commerce of Panama, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations.

Gonzalez explained that the objective is that a brochure explaining this important issue to Panamanians be included with the ballots to be used in the 1994 elections to spare the state the additional expense of holding a plebiscite.

Leo Gonzalez said that the president elected in those general elections will be able to know what the people want concerning the U.S. bases, and "if the people want the military bases to stay, then the new government must initiate negotiations in that direction, and if the people reject the bases "then the transition will continue and all the U.S. soldiers will leave by the end of 1999."

Regarding people who call him "traitor," Leo Gonzalez has explained that this name-calling is being done by citizens who are not interested in the jobs that military bases provide and who do not defend the economy of Panama.

Minister Comments on Menendez Resignation

PA2810200191 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report by Jenny Lee Martinez]

[Text] The participation of National Police Director Gonzalo Menendez Franco in the Arnulfist Party convention unleashed a series of situations that led to his resignation on Friday, 25 October. Menendez Franco submitted his resignation to President Guillermo Endara.

According to official sources, President Endara asked Menendez Franco for his resignation because Attorney Rogelio Cruz was going to dismiss Menendez Franco from his post this week.

Radio KW Continente interviewed Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier to learn his opinion regarding the resignation of the National Police director. He answered:

[Begin recording] [Chevalier] Everyone has the right to resign in this country.

[Martinez] It has been said that the Christian Democratic Party pressed for his resignation. What can you say about this?

[Chevalier] I do not think so. The explanation Menendez Franco gave is very clear. All you have to do is read the letter. In this country people are used to listening to the news, but they do not take the time to read the letters that are published. It would be a good thing for you to read it.

[Martinez] Who could be appointed to the post of National Police director?

[Chevalier] Many people could be appointed. You must remember that...[pauses] people here are only concerned about the fact that someone resigned or that someone left his post. There are many citizens here who are capable of being police directors and many other things. No one is indispensable. No one is indispensable. If someone were to die tomorrow, he would have to be replaced, right? So people should not worry too much just because we have a missing police chief. You will see that we will have another good police chief, but it is going to be difficult to find one just as good as Gonzalo Menendez Franco, who has been the best police chief in the country.

[Martinez] What names have been mentioned for the post?

[Chevalier] Several names. There are several candidates, but you must understand that I cannot give you names, because I would be unfair to them. If I gave you names, people would immediately visit them and put pressure on them to accept or not to accept; they would be placed in a difficult spot. We prefer to announce the names when the president and I chose them.

[Martinez] Will the new chief be a member of the Arnulfist Party?

[Chevalier] I believe he could belong to any party as long as he obeys the law and refrains from participating in politics. A great deal of comment has been stirred up because of Gonzalo, but no one can tell me that his predecessor did not have political inclinations, right? [end recording]

Vice President Ford on Foreign Investment

PA2610042391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Oct 91 p 19A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford has cautioned President Guillermo Endara that what most "discourages" local and foreign investors "is all the paperwork involved in opening any kind of business."

The minister has issued an official note stating that because of the obstacles, "many (businessmen) do not make new investments."

Ford recommended to the cabinet to revise current legal norms to allow the Commerce and Industries Ministry to grant "temporary operation permits" to investors wanting to initiate new enterprises in Panama.

He explained that interested investors should be able to present a formal request and then the Commerce and Industries Ministry will give them a deadline for complying with the requirements necessary to initiate operations.

Ford said that the Commerce and Industries Ministry would demand a deposit, as well as compliance with applicable legal dispositions, and then grant permits within a established period of time.

According to Ford, once the requirements are met, the interested party should be able to initiate operations "immediately." By doing this, the government will contribute to create sources of employment in a shorter period of time.

Minister Ford said his office is interested in facilitating the work of the Commerce and Industries Ministry to improve the mechanisms for opening new markets.

Japanese Embassy Official Denies Loan Grant

PA2510235891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Oct 91 p 1a

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] On 24 October, Japanese Embassy Counselor Osamu Igami denied reports that Japan would give Panama $100 million to pay the outstanding interest on its foreign debt. He added that his government is very upset with these statements.

The Japanese diplomat made these comments when he presented a report that details the aid given to Panama by Japan in the past six years. The aid amounted to $29 million and covered technical cooperation and donations of equipment to different state institutions.

Igami said his government is "very upset" because Panama Government officials have stated that Japan is going to grant the country a loan for millions of dollars.

He added that he wants officials from the current government to give him detailed information of what they are talking about or where this idea came from. Igami pointed out that they had learned about the statements by the government officials through the local newspapers.

According to the counselor, there has also been reports about a project for a fish market in Panama. An official named Sucre (whom he did not identify by first name) has said that everything is ready and the only thing missing is a decision from Japan.

Igami said that before making a decision on such an important project, Japan must make a profound and serious study and then decide to grant the donation. He clarified that there is still no commitment regarding that project.

The Japanese diplomat made these statements after Guillermo Ford, second vice president of Panama and minister of planning and economic policy, announced in August that Japan, the United States, Taiwan, and France would form a support group that would allow Panama to pay approximately $500 million in outstanding interest on foreign debt.

On that occasion, Ford announced that the support group would start operating in September after the country reached an agreement to refinance the debt with the international credit institutions and began an economic adjustment program.

According to Minister Ford, as part of the support group, Japan would provide $100 million; Taiwan, $40 million; the United States, $130 million; France, $4 million; and the rest would be provided by other countries of the EC.

Economy Minister on Japanese Support

PA2910003591 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Guillermo Ford, minister of Planning and Economic Policy, said that the Japanese Government, through its embassy in Panama, has not stated whether Japan will form part of the support group that will allow Panama to finance its foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Ford] I had a very cordial meeting with the ambassador during his first official visit. We clarified all aspects and I believe that if the ambassador sees fit he is the right person to clarify the matter. I repeat, we had a very cordial meeting. Panama reiterates its friendship and respect for the Japanese Government and I believe that any further information should be supplied by the ambassador.

[Unidentified reporter] The support group's adjustment plan...

[Second unidentified reporter, interrupting] ...controls what the charge d'affaires says?

[Ford] I am not going to contradict anyone. We have been negotiating with the Japanese Government directly through the ambassador's predecessor and now we have reiterated our position to the ambassador. The Japanese Government at all times has given Panama support, not only through the support group but in many other ways, because there is a great alliance, a brotherhood, between the Japanese Government and the Panama Government and its people. I reiterate that this is the government's position.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the economic adjustment plan—we know it had the support group's backing—now that the Japanese Government has decided not to assist with the $120 million, what will the Panamanian Government do?

[Ford] I have not been officially told that the Japanese Government is not going to take part in the support group. I repeat, it would seem to me that any information should come from the ambassador, if he wishes, seeing that the information originated from the charge d'affaires. That is something only the ambassador can decide.

[Reporter] Excuse me. Were you given confirmation that Japan will support us?

[Ford] I repeat that I would prefer that due to the fact it was them—the charge d'affaires...

[Reporter, interrupting] No, before those statements were made.

[Ford] Prior to those statements, Japan was always part of the support group.

[Reporter] To what do you attribute this slip by the charge d'affaires?

[Ford] I repeat, I am not going to go into detail because I prefer that it be the Japanese Ambassador who makes any explanation.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, in 48 hours the time the IFI's [International Financial Institutions] gave the Legislative Assembly to approve three draft resolutions to renegotiate the debt expires...

[Ford, interrupting] No, I would like to clarify and I thank you for the question. The IFI's have not set a deadline for this because if they did we would not accept it. I believe there has been some distortion on this issue. What we said is that the IFI's will be holding their various board meetings during November and the three laws were part of the package deal we negotiated. The IFI's can never dictate to Panama directions or rules on how to act. The Legislative Assembly will responsibly take whatever time it considers necessary. I do hope we can do this as soon as possible so it can be included in the board of directors' meetings in the first part of November.

[Reporter] You had said that 31 December was one of the expiration dates...

[Ford, interrupting] Calendar dates are always specified so there can be a goal, but the IFI's are not going to set a deadline, nor will we allow them to set a deadline for anything. I do expect, I repeat, that all these laws can be rapidly passed within the terms the legislative branch sees fit.

[Reporter] Will this be before December?

[Ford] I hope these laws will be ready. I have given my full confidence to the legislative branch.

[Reporter] What does a delay in the approval of these laws mean to the country in connection with the IFI's?

[Ford] It would simply mean that no foreign investments would be made. We would not normalize our relationship with the Paris Club, which covers bilateral loans. A whole series of operations would become bogged down—operations that are well advanced. We say that we want to attack the poverty problem and we have been negotiating with the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] a series of loans, but these all depend on our normalized relations with the IFI's. This is the reason we want to complete these negotiations during November. The support group is also likely to ask why is it taking Panama so long. [end recording]

Argentina

Peronists Win 14 Seats in Chamber of Deputies

PY2910224291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Oct 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Justicialist Party (PJ) won 14 of the 34 Lower House seats at stake in Sunday's round of mid-term elections, losing three of its overall seats in the voting districts. Ten seats went to the Radical Party (UCR), three each to Salta's Renewal Party and the Autonomist-Liberal Pact, two to the Honesty, Work and Efficiency party of Santa Fe and one each to the Progressive Democrats, the Jujuy Popular Movement and Chaco's Action Party.

Pending the final round of elections in December in Tierra del Fuego and Catamarca, the PJ now has 120 deputies in Congress, the UCR 83, Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) 10, Group of Eight five, Republican Force and Salta Renewal four, Socialist Unity, MODIN [Movement for Independence and Dignity], Progressive Democratic Party and Autonomist-Liberal Pact three, Jujuy Popular Movement, Chaco Action [ACHA], Intransigent, Neuquen Popular Movement and Renewal Crusade two, the Christian Democratic Party, Pensioners White, Bloquista, Mendoza Democrats, Movement Towards Socialism and Federal Party one each.

Below, the list of deputies elected last Sunday [27 October]: and Ricardo Leconte (Autonomist/Liberal), Humberto Romero and Tomas Gonzalez Cabanas (PJ).

Chaco: Atilio Barbotti (ACHA), Claudio Mendoza (PJ) and Marcelo Moroz (UCR).

Jujuy: Maria del Pilar Bermudez (PJ), Maria Cristina Guzman (Popular Movement) and Normando Alvarez Garcia (UCR).

La Rioja: Carlos Romero and Bernardo Herrera (PJ) and Raul Galvan (UCR).

Rio Negro: Ada Piccini and Esteban Rodrigo (UCR) and Carlos Soria (PJ).

Salta: Jorge Folloni, Julio Loutaif and Elsa Maidana (Renewal) and Silvia Troyano (PJ).

Santa Fe: Marcelo Muniagurria, Saturnino Aranda, Fermando Caimmi and Hugo Rodriguez Sanudo (PJ), Rene Balestra, Ernesto Algaba and Angel Dambrosio (UCR), Guillermo Estevez Boero and Ricardo Molinas (Honesty, Work and Efficiency) and Mario Verdu (Progressive Democrat).

Santiago del Estero: Manuel Herrera Arias and Raul Oliva (PJ) and Javier Mengeghini and Guillermo Pinto (UCR).

Further on Election Results

PY2910220091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Oct 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—A brief panorama of the situation in each of the eight provinces which had mid-term elections on Sunday [27 October] is printed below:

—Corrientes: This is the only province which still uses an indirect voting system. The governing Autonomist-Liberal Pact (PAL) got 43 percent of the votes and 13 electors, while the Peronists were voted by 33 percent of the voters and have nine electors, But as the Radical Party has said its four electors plan to vote for Peronist candidate Alberto de Filippo, the situation at the Electoral College is currently a draw. The problem is that the provincial constitution says that the president of that body, who votes double and could turn the election either side, must belong to the party which got the most votes. The Justicialists claim that it is them because the PAL votes have to be divided between the two members of the alliance while PAL say they obtained the most votes. At press time last night they were still involved in difficult negotiations.

—La Rioja: Since early on Sunday night it was absolutely clear that the Justicialists had easily defended the province which was governed for more than 10 years by President Carlos Menem. The combined votes of the four Peronist candidates in a combined primary-election system added up to more than 75 percent of ballots. However, only yesterday morning the election authorities disclosed the name of the victor: the president's close friend Bernabe Aranudo received 29,691 votes against 25,311 for fellow Peronist Mario Santander. Bot got more than the sole Radical candidate. However, Santander accused Arnaudo of committing fraud and threatened with calling the election off with a formal presentation before the provincial courts. "I got more than what they say in the capital only," said Santander, who is current Mayor of La Rioja city.

—Salta: For the first time since the foundation of the Peronist Party that force lost an election in this north-western province to retired Navy Captain and former de facto governor Roberto Ulloa. Although less than half the ballots were counted at press time in an unusually slow counting. Justicialist leaders in Salta have already conceded defeat. Provisional figures give Ulloa's Renewal Party an impressive 59.66 percent of the votes against 30 percent for the Peronists and barely four percent for the Radicals.

—Rio Negro: The Radicals won two of the three seats at the Lower House in dispute, but the party of Governor Horacio Massaccesi experienced a serious drop in its number of voters as compared to the August 11 polls for governor. While then Massaccesi was supported by 46.42 percent of the ballots, on Sunday it was only 35.3 percent for the Radicals. The other seat will go to Peronist Carlos Soria, who ran for re-election. A

disturbing fact is that the combination of the high number of blank ballots (8.3 percent) and those absent (30 percent) add up to more voters than what the Radicals got.

Chaco: In a neck-to-neck final, Chaco Action Party (PACH) candidate Rolando Tauguinas won the governorship against Justicialist Jorge Morales. The difference was only 1,784 votes, but Morales said yesterday that "the voters have expressed their preference clearly and what is left for us to do is help the winners." Tauguinas stated that "now it's time to start working to respond to the support of the people with our action of government." In Resistencia, the provincial capital, where PACH got a larger difference, PACH leader Elda Pertile will be mayor.

—Santa Fe: With 74.5 percent of the votes counted, the Peronists got the most votes at the polls to elect 10 national deputies, but they lost one of the four seats they had in dispute, which went to former National Administrative Investigations Bureau head Ricardo Molinas running on an alliance between the Democratic Socialist Parties which also achieved the reelection of Guillermo Estevez Boero. The Radicals kept their three seats and the Progressive Democrats their only seat.

—Santiago del Estero: Peronist Carlos Mujica, former rector of the provincial state university, was elected governor as the three Justicialist candidates in the combined primary-election system gave them 172,282 votes against 128,087 of the only Radical contender Jose Luis Zavalia. Mujica defeated former governor Carlos Suarez, but the latter presented an accusation of fraud at the electoral courts. Both Radicals and Peronists keep two each of the four Lower House seats at stake.

—Jujuy: As in La Rioja, the Justicialist victory was much clearer and announced much quicker than the name of the governor- elect. Although Deputy Roberto Dominguez yesterday started making statements as to how he plans to govern the province, his internal rival Guillermo Snopek still had chances of becoming governor given the slowness of the counting process and the evenness of the results. The Radicals came second but the party's candidate Hugo Conde became San Salvador de Jujuy mayor.

* Plan To Prevent Saadi's Reelection Revealed

92SM0039B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 22 Sep 91 p 9

[Text]

Another Plan To Stop Saadi

Luis Prol has returned to Catamarca with his hands empty. The federal overseer's visit to the national congress of the PJ [Justicialist Party] and his subsequent meeting Saturday night with Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano did not succeed in developing an electoral strategy that will make sure that Ramon Saadi is not reelected governor of the province at the 27 October balloting.

The overseer tried to get Manzano and the "celeste" faction [more moderate Menem backers] of the administration to commit themselves to some sort of operation to stop a third force from forming around Saadi's estranged brand of Peronism, because he feels that such a faction will divide up the votes of the anti-Saadi front, which already comprises the Radical Party and almost all of the party organizations in the province. As a result, Saadi's chances of victory seem to be improving.

In fact, this third force, called the Front of Hope, has already registered with the electoral authorities before tonight's midnight deadline, although it does not yet have any definite candidates.

Prol contends that the creation of the third force is backed by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, but he also suspects that President Carlos Menem himself has given it a nod.

One sector of the administration had offered the nomination of the Front of Hope to the undersecretary of transportation, Edmundo Soria, a Catamarca native who is thought to have a good image, but he turned it down.

Operation "third force" is now reportedly trying to convince Judge Efrain Morales to accept the nomination. Prol's alternative plan is supposedly to put Efrain on the ticket of the broad anti-Saadi alliance, which consists right now of Arnoldo Castillo from the Radical Party and Simon Hernandez from the provincial party Mobilization.

At Saturday's meeting Manzano and Prol reportedly even talked about the possibility of postponing the elections to exploit the possibility that a verdict would be handed down against Saadi in his trial on charges of misappropriating public funds.

If he were convicted, Saadi could not run for governor, whereas being on trial does not prevent him from being a candidate.

Radical Party Deputy Jose Furque yesterday backed a postponement; he told Manzano in a letter that he wanted "more time," arguing that what it took the Saadi family administration in the province "eight years to destroy cannot be rebuilt in just three months."

Domestic Sales Increase During Third Quarter

PY2910214291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Oct 91 p 5

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (NA)—Domestic sales rose 56 percent in the third quarter of the year, the Fiel research group said yesterday. Export orders fell 15 percent. Surveyed firms represent 80 percent of the Gross Industrial Product. A

total of 39 percent expect sales to rise in the final quarter of the year, and 31 percent reported personnel had been laid off.

Ecuadoran Envoys, Officials Discuss Border Issue

PY2910142091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM)— Members of a special official Ecuadoran delegation headed by Ecuadoran Ambassador to Argentina Luis Valencia Rodriguez met with senior Foreign Ministry officials to brief them on the border conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

This meeting is part of the Ecuadoran Government program to send special delegations to the countries "that expressed concern over the tension prevailing between Peru and Ecuador," and who "offered their assistance to try to solve the conflict."

Gonzalo Cordova Galarza and Jorge Salvador Lara, members of the special mission, and Valencia Rodriguez attended the meeting that was presided over by Argentine Foreign Relations Under Secretary Juan Carlos Olima.

The Ecuadoran delegates briefed the Argentine Foreign Ministry officials on "the peace proposal submitted by President Rodrigo Borja to the UN General Assembly." This proposal received "the support of the majority of the Ecuadoran people," and of "the leaders of several political parties."

A faxed report released by the Ecuadoran Embassy in Argentina reads that this proposal "reveals Ecuador's will to peacefully and honorably solve the conflict," and its attempt to find "new ways of coexistence in keeping with the current world situation."

Di Tella Departs for Mercosur Ratification

PY3010102891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0940 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (TELAM) — Foreign Minister Guido di Tella departed at 0730 for Asuncion, Paraguay, where he will participate in the 19th meeting of the foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin countries.

Di Tella and his Brazilian colleague, Francisco Rezek, will also take with them to the Paraguayan capital the congressional procedures that will ratify the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] Treaty.

The foreign minister did not chat with the press and he departed with a small entourage on board the Tango 02 airplane from the military sector of the metropolitan airport. He will return to this capital at about midnight.

Cavallo on Inflation Rate; Departs for Chile

PY2910181491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1756 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has not rejected today the possibility that Argentina could have an annual inflation rate of 7 percent, as President Carlos Menem predicted. He added that his ministry "is not in the process of implementing" an omnibus draft bill that seeks to deregulate the economy. [passage omitted]

Cavallo departed for Chile at 1350 from the military sector of the metropolitan airport in the company of Alieto Guadagni, secretary for Latin American Economic Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, and other officials of the Economy Ministry. [passage omitted]

Fish Exports Increase in First Half of Year

PY2910225291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Oct 91 p 15

[Text] The Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Secretariat has released information on the evolution of the total value of fish exports in the first half of 1991.

According to the statistical data, fish exports rose by 34 percent to 213 million US dollars in the first six months of 1991 compared with the same period last year.

"This figure, though not reflecting the difficulties the fish sector is suffering as it goes through industrial changes, shows (the sector's) response capability amid the present reactivation and productive diversification process, which seeks products with higher added value," the information said.

"This Administration," it continued "has started a national fisheries policy which is based on real fish stock surveys and monitoring, the cutting of structural costs, the preservation of fish species, the use of non-traditional resources and productive insertion, and proposes a framework for industrial growth, which it aims to consolidate within the next few months. This process, which falls within the guidelines of recent wage agreements signed between the government and the industry, shows developments such as recent investment, worth a combined 50 million dollars, principally in the squid fishing activity, a speciality that is specially important for Argentina from both a political and particular point of view."

The report further added that the government "has passed tax reductions and the incorporation of the fishing industry to internal tax refunds, standing to its expressed policy of promoting fish exports and the development of the fishing industry through adaptation to international competition rules.

Bolivia

End to Foreign Debt Linked to Coca Eradication

PY3010012291 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Oct 91 p 4

[Excerpts] The government warned that if the target of eradicating 7,000 hectares of coca farms—agreed upon with the United States—is not met, the country will face problems in resolving its foreign debt problems.

An agreement signed by the Bolivian and U.S. Governments in 1989 sets forth that 7,000 hectares of coca farms should be eradicated annually in exchange for economic compensation that is used to support the balance of payments for Boliva, which is also burdened by repayment of the foreign debt. [passage omitted]

Osvaldo Antezana, alternative development under secretary, told PRESENCIA that failure to meet the coca farm replacement targets and a lack of budget allocations "can cause difficulties for Bolivia, considering that the foreign debt was negotiated from a structural viewpoint." [passage omitted]

According to Antezana, the most important factor hindering fulfillment of the eradication target is "the impressive increase in the price of 100-pound coca barrels to 200 bolivianos. The price was 150 bolivianos in the first half of October, but there are no indications that it will drop. [no closing quotation mark as published]

"This price means no guarantee for the replacement plans because it is high with respect to 1990 prices, which averaged 45 bolivianos," Antezana said.

Experts maintain that the price of coca has risen that high because of continued drug-trafficking operations despite the Repentance Decree.

Some hypotheses are being considered in this regard. On one hand, it is said that drug traffickers are foreigners who continue to operate the rings that Bolivian "big shots" have abandoned to avail themselves of the Repentance Decree. On the other hand, authorities have not ruled out the possibility of the Colombian cartels entering the country after their leaders surrendered in Colombia. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Alternative Development Undersecretariat officials are sponsoring seminars for coca growers, hoping to convince them to destroy their coca farms, which are a source of income for more than 300,000 families.

Ecuadoran Delegation Visits Paz Zamora

PY3010112491 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] A special Ecuadoran mission to Bolivia met with President Jaime Paz Zamora to explain its border conflict with Peru.

This mission is comprised of Diego Bustamante; Manuel Guzman; and Ecuadoran Ambassador to Bolivia Hernan Holguin. They gave a detailed report of the Ecuadoran position regarding the border conflict with Peru. The foreign delegation thanked President Paz in name of the Ecuadoran Government and people for the appeal he made to solve the problem through dialogue. Guzman said that this position coincides with that of Ecuador because it seeks a solution based on justice. He spoke after his meeting with Paz:

[Begin recording] We told him that we want Bolivia to continue to support us in our effort to reach a definite agreement with Peru. We are open to any peaceful and legal solution based on justice. That is, we are open not only to that suggested by President Borja, but to any other solution. I think a peaceful solution is desirable for everyone. Besides, it is in keeping with Bolivia's desires for its own problems. It demonstrates that our criteria is consistent and must continue the same. We are united and have common interests for the near future, like those in the Andean Pact. [end recording]

Brazil

Monthly Interest Rates Set at 42 Percent

PY2910114491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Businessmen who went to their banks today trying to get a loan must have been scared by the new interest rates. Today was a good day to make a financial investment. The government increased interest rates to 42 percent monthly, well above the inflation rate.

As of today, bank deposit certificates yield 3,800 percent annually. The Central Bank disclosed tonight the reasons for this new increase in interest rates: It seeks to discourage consumption and to attract savings in the financial market.

Arminio Fraga, director of the Central Bank Foreign Area Department, said:

[Begin Fraga recording] We are trying to show market operators that we are closely monitoring interest rates and exchange rates. This measure is truly designed to establish realistic interest rates and money exchange rates. [end recording]

The Central Bank also announced that as of today it will cease operating on the gold market. In view of this, the price of gold per gram increased today by 12 percent.

Rates Spark Re-Indexation

PY2910175291 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Oct 91 Section 1 p 4

[Report by Josias de Souza and Valdo Cruz]

[Text] Soaring inflation rates, which could reach the explosive 25-percent mark this month, forced the government to take measures that were not initially foreseen in the schedule of Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira's team. These current emergency measures closely reflect the economic situation that was implemented during the final stage of the Sarney administration when the value of money was protected against inflation by local financial dealings.

The government is mainly concerned about not draining the public coffers, which would involve the prospect of a public accounts deficit. The government is also concerned about the possible diversion of the funds currently invested in places where the return is not keeping pace with inflation.

The reindexation of taxes was already decided. A new index (the Fiscal Unit [Unidade Fiscal], Unif), comprising a basket of inflation indicators, will be created. These inflation indicators will be measured by the Economic Research Institute Foundation (FIPE); the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV); and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The Unif is identical to the old economy leading reference index like the ORTN [National Readjustable Treasury Bonds]; the OTN [National Treasury Order]; and the BTNF [Fiscal National Treasury Bond].

The economic team wants to guarantee a return that will be at least identical to the different adjustment for inflation—as it was during the Sarney administration—for investments linked to the TR [Referential Interest Rate], such as savings. [passage omitted]

* Werneck Criticizes High Interest Rates

92SM0048A Sao Paulo VEJA
inPortuguese25 Sep 91 p 93

[Text] Like an altar boy carrying a censer and filling the church with incense, Secretary of Economic Policy Roberto Macedo has been going around spreading gloomy predictions about the future of this country. Macedo said that 1991 would end with a deficit in the government accounts and a drop in gross domestic product, GDP. In his opinion, the beginning of the end of the economic torment will come only in the long run, with passage of the "Emendao" [Super Amendment] to the Constitution. In the short run, he expects that a high-interest policy will be maintained in an attempt to keep price indexes in check and prevent the situation from getting worse. "The country is in chaos," Macedo told a group of opposition deputies on Thursday.

Ever since he took office, Minister of the Economy Marcilio Marques Moreira has, unintentionally, fostered a rivalry within his bailiwick. On the one side is his aide, Macedo, and on the other National Economic Secretary Dorothea Werneck. They differ on everything: from their public behavior to convictions concerning the interest rate as an instrument of monetary policy. A study circulating within Werneck's department indicates that if the kind of rates Macedo advocates are maintained, the country really will see its problems worsen. According to the survey, the escalation of interest rates this year could force industrial activity down by 15 percent and commerce down by 50 percent between now and December, in comparison to 1990. "There is no guarantee that this recession will pull Brazil out of the mudhole", emphasizes economist and University of Sao Paulo Professor Eduardo Giannetti da Fonseca.

No Appetite

If reality confirms the figures Werneck's office developed, $20 billion will go down the drain in industry alone. This is money that could be used to build 4 million units of low-income housing, or one and a half Itaipu hydroelectric projects. It is also equivalent to four times the earnings of a company like Autolatina last year, and 11 times that of the Carrefour supermarket chain. Werneck says that the interest rates have spoiled the appetites of consumers who depend on installment credit and businessmen who usually keep their inventories up to date.

For a merchant without his own source of capital, bank financing has been costing 18 to 20 percent a month—which means real interest rates as high as 4 percent. In civilized countries, that is the six-month rate. Figures from the Commercial Association of Sao Paulo confirm the that orders have been cut back, or even canceled, since the beginning of the month—although September has traditionally always been a month when businessmen would start building up their stocks to prepare for the year-end holiday sales.

Anyone who takes a look at traffic in the retail stores these days can see that merchants have very serious misgivings. They are afraid to stock up on products and perhaps stub their toes in the market. That was what happened to G. Aronson, one of the country's largest chains of retail stores. Its owners closed their eyes to the interest rates and filled their warehouses with refrigerators and stoves. Result: buyers simply vanished, and the company sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on the 13th. "The combination of high interest rates and recession has done tremendous damage. The country cannot stand another year like this one," said Yoshiaki Nakano, an economist and professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Sao Paulo

Lost Decade

Even Roberto Macedo, who alarmed President Fernando Collor with his predictions about the future, seems to have been struck by the bleakness of the country's statistics. The secretary calculates that $530 billion has been lost owing to the invention of misguided economic policies during the 1980s. "It was just too much for this country," he notes. He could not be more right. That is enough money to pay off an external debt of $120 billion—and it went right out the window without leaving anything concrete to show for it.

The fact is that despite the sequence of economic "packages," the country is getting poorer, there is no investment, foreign capital seems more and more discouraged, and the clouds on the horizon have gotten thicker and blacker. Shortly after President Collor took office, the administration issued some optimistic forecasts, but the audience of economists, on the outside looking in, responded with their predictions of a gloomy future. Not long ago, the bunch inside joined the ones outside. By crying "chaos!" it will be easier to win passage of something like the Emendao. And, if the chaos is not as complete as expected, the country will be cheered by results that are merely mediocre.

Bankers Surprised by Rising Dollar, Gold Rates

PY3010013091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The rise of the U.S. dollar on the parallel market caught the government by surprise. Investors took a course of action that is contrary to what Central Bank of Brazil [BCB] experts expected.

It was the Central Bank's turn to be shocked today. After shocking the market by setting monthly interest rates at 42 percent, the BCB expected today investors to sell dollars and gold and to invest their money in the overnight market or in the Financial Investment Fund. This did not happen. The price of gold and the dollar rate began to skyrocket.

Yesterday the BCB decided to stop selling dollars and gold in order to make their market prices fall. The BCB Operztions Board stood by idly monitoring the unrest in the market. After a hectic month on the dollar parallel market, the BCB had nothing else to do but become a mere spectator.

Investors also decided to stand by idly watching the market at noon today when the dollar climbed to 1,050 cruzeiros. This was sheer speculation. In just two days, the U.S. dollar rose by more than 20 percent, which is almost equivalent to the overall inflation rate for this month. In one month, the dollar became 60 percent more expensive on the parallel market.

Today, the U.S. dollar opened at 800 cruzeiros on the parallel market. At 1100 the dollar had already risen to 860 cruzeiros. At 1300 the dollar jumped to 1,050 cruzeiros, and at 1600 it fell back to 950 cruzeiros.

The Chamber of Deputies decided to call Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira to report on the government's policy and its impact on the financial market. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Chief Comments

PY3010014091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Francisco Gros, president of the Central Bank of Brazil [BCB], said that the financial market will return to normal in the next few days. In remarks to reporter Alexandre Garcia, Gros explained why the BCB decided to withdraw from the dollar market, a decision that caused the dollar to rise in recent days.

[Begin recording] [Gros] We reached the conclusion that the system under which the BCB operated on the gold market was established under an economic structure in which the BCB had control over 80 percent of the people's savings. As these savings began to be unfrozen, it became evident that the level of speculation against the dollar was on the rise. Thus, we reached the conclusion that it would be unwise for the BCB to continue to maintain the U.S. dollar rate. Then, we went back to the system that had always existed in Brazil; that is, a system in which the parallel market operates freely and the BCB operates on the commercial market.

[Garcia] Would you say that there is currently speculation?

[Gros] What exists now is a certain degree of nervousness on the market because this market was guided by the BCB for almost one year. Now that the BCB has withdrawn, it will take some time for the market to regain its balance.

[Garcia] How long do you think this nervousness will persist?

[Gros] Normally, when major changes are introduced into a market, the nervousness will persist until the market finds a level of adjustment. I believe the adjustment will come in the next few days, when the market will return to normal.

[Garcia] Mr. Gros, rumors circulating on the market have it that there will be a bank holiday, economic packages, or a dollarization program. What would you say about these rumors?

[Gros] Look, rumors usually begin to circulate in Brazil on Thursdays. This week they began earlier. What normally happens in an atmosphere charged with rumors is that their promoters profit and the naive people who believe in rumors lose their money. [end recording]

Sao Paulo Metalworkers Strike for Higher Pay

PY3010000291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] The Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, the largest in the country, called today a general strike to demand a salary increase. Osasco and Guarulhos metalworkers also joined the strike. Nearly 500,000 workers are members of these three unions.

Picket lines began to move as early as 0500 this morning. The primary targets were the large industrial plants in the southern part of Sao Paulo. The demonstrators staged a march that they called a dragging march because they stopped at every door to urge fellow workers to join the strike.

Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, leader of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, personally led the picket groups. [Video shows striking workers pushing another worker] In this factory, he had problems with an administrative worker who tried to enter the factory. There was a minor disturbance.

The workers' demands and their employers' proposals are too far apart. The unions want a 74-percent salary adjustment and an 84-percent compensation for inflation as of March 1990. The Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries [FIESP] agreed to a 56-percent increase in three installments. A conciliatory meeting was held at the Regional Labor Court today, but no agreement was reached. The court will rule on the strike on 30 October.

Union leaders held a news conference this afternoon to state the reasons for calling a strike at a time when businesses are complaining about an economic recession.

[Begin Medeiros recording, in progress] ...the same increase. We must hold our heads high so that we do not lose what is most precious to us: our dignity. [end recording]

According to the unions, 70 percent of the metalworkers joined the strike. The FIESP has not yet conducted a survey of the strike and will only be able to comment on it tomorrow.

Schedule for Future Privatizations Announced

PY2710014491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Summary] Eduardo Modiano, head of the BNDES [Social and Economic Development Bank] Privatization Commission, disclosed that the Eletromecanica enterprise will be auctioned on 1 November; Mafersa [Railway Material Inc.] on 11 November; Northeastern Iron and Steel Mills on 14 November; Imbag Pesticides Company on 17 November; the River Plate Navigation Association on 14 January; Piratini Steel Industry on 28 January; and the Goaias Fertil enterprise on 18 February.

Kohl Confirms Environmental Foundation Funds

PY2910143691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was met on 28 October by Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho at the Bandeirantes Palace. During their meeting, they discussed ecological projects and the recovery of the Atlantic forests.

Kohl confirmed the release of $20 million for the foundation that is engaged in protecting the Atlantic forests.

Finishes South American Tour

LD2910213391 Hamburg DPA in German 1513 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DPA)—Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl met today Leonel Brizola, governor of Rio de Janeiro State, on this the last day of his 11-day South American tour. Kohl visited Brizola in his office in Palacio Guanabara in the city center.

Yesterday, Kohl visited Rio's tourist attractions. He went for a walk on Copacabana beach and rode a cable-car up Sugarloaf Mountain.

The chancellor's return flight to Germany is planned for Tuesday evening. After visiting Chile, Kohl visited Brasilia, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro as well as the Amazon region.

Rezek Comments on Chile Joining Mercosur

PY2910140091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Report by Antonia Marcia Vale]

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma is meeting in Brasilia with Brazilian diplomats, preparing the agenda for President Fernando Collor's visit to Chile on 17-19 December.

President Collor's visit is in response to the visit that Chilean President Patricio Aylwin made to Brazil in June 1990. The two presidents will also sign several political and economic cooperation agreements, such as those on the reduction of tariffs and the simplification of the paperwork for the traffic of goods and passengers between the two countries.

According to Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, there is a move to have Chile join the Common Market of the South, Mercosur. He said:

[Begin recording] Chile will join Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay in the Mercosur by late 1994.

Chile could not join the Mercosur from the beginning for reasons involving its own economic process which is a little more advanced than ours. We all believe, however, that this will happen before the end of the transition phase and that the Mercosur countries will probably be five and not four when the system enters its final phase. [end recording]

During his visit, President Collor will sign an agreement on guarantees for Brazilian investments in Chile, and Chilean investments in Brazil.

* New List of Items To Be Presented at GATT

92SM0048D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 9 Oct 91 p 6

[Article by Sao Paulo correspondent Nora Gonzalez]

[Text] By the end of October, the Brazilian Government is supposed to have concluded a series of negotiations with private enterprise in order to prepare a list of items to be submitted to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for later consolidation.

The consolidation process consists of multilateral talks during which each country submits a list of products for which a taxation ceiling is established that is valid for any purchaser of that item and becomes final. The rates can fall below those levels, or even be equal to them, but may never go higher.

In March 1990 under the Uruguay Round, Brazil submitted a total of 1,200 items that would be consolidated. Since then, this country has been under pressure from the other members of the agreement to increase the number of products that has never exceeded 600 since Brazil joined the GATT in the 1940's. Most of the other parties to the agreement have already consolidated 90 percent of their import duties, or an average of 10,000 items each, while Brazil has not consolidated more than 5 percent.

The new list will probably be expanded, according to Director of the Department of Foreign Trade (Decex) Heloiza Camargos, but items such as steel, textiles, and tropical products will be handled in separate GATT negotiations. She would not reveal which products might be included, or the total number of items that might be added to the list.

Signature of the new proposal, planned for 1992, would mark the beginning of the five-year period that, it is estimated, would be needed to fully implement the consolidation of the new items. So, whatever the decision, the tariffs will not take effect until 1997.

The dismantling of customs barriers does not, however, mean the granting any kind of credit for the country that reduces its protectionism. The only instrument that might be invoked when some sort of structural problem arises in the case of consolidation is the safeguards code, which could be activated any time large volumes of imports enter the country, but without subsidies or dumping having occurred.

After invoking the safeguards clause, a country can de-consolidate a product, but must offer the supplier another consolidation of equal importance.

In the case of the Brazilian import duties, the new expanded list may or may not include the products submitted last March. It depends on what the other GATT countries are interested in. Since then, they have submitted proposals for items to be included and may not be interested in consolidating others.

Launch of Environmental Satellite Set for 1992

PY2610235491 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Oct 91 p 30

[Text] The first Brazilian satellite, which is being manufactured by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) and which will cover the entire national territory, will be put into orbit before the Rio-92 [UN Conference on Environment and Development] ecological conference, which is scheduled to start in June next year. The U.S. company Orbital Sciences Corporation, whose agent in Brazil is Montemer International of the Monteiro Aranha Group, won the bidding contest organized by the Aeronautics Ministry and will be launching the satellite for $11.5 million.

The satellite, named SCD-1, which will stay in an elliptical orbit at an altitude of 700 km, will conduct remote sensoring and will transmit environmental data on Brazilian soil gathered through a network of 500 Automatic Data Collection Platforms (PCD). This system is equipped with sensors that can be used in meteorology, oceanography, and atmospheric chemistry. The SCD-1 will also monitor conditions in the Amazon basin and adjacent rain forests. It will measure both the soil temperature and forest degradation.

Jacques Mercier, a partner-director of Montemer International, said that the idea is to launch the satellite in May 1992 so that it can be in operation during the Rio-92 conference, which will be attended by several heads of state and which will focus on global environmental issues. He added that the SCD-1 will be launched from the United States by a B-52 plane that, upon reaching a 10,000-meter altitude, will release a Pegasus rocket that will put the satellite into orbit. He noted that the cost for launching the satellite includes insurance and financing over a two-year period.

Chile

Rojas Justifies Size of Military Budget

PY3010021691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Party for Democracy Deputy Vicente Sota submitted a proposal to Congress that seeks to eliminate a 1.109 billion peso allocation from the defense budget. This allocation is earmarked for civil agents of the dissolved CNI [National Intelligence Center], who were transferred to the Army Intelligence Directorate.

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas reiterated that the government does not agree with Deputy Sota's proposal, and that it would prefer a gradual reduction of this group of officials. The minister said he trusted that the congressional subcommittee will reject this proposal, which implies a sudden cancellation of the allocation for former CNI agents.

Before analyzing Army expenditures, Minister Rojas briefed the Second Budget Subcommittee on the foundations and objectives of the defense policy. He said that military spending suits the needs and responsibilities of the Armed Forces as a deterrent power and is based on a criterion of continuity of operations.

He stressed the support that military institutions extend to development efforts during peace time.

As for the results of a CERC [Center for Contemporary Reality Studies] poll, in which more than 30 percent of those polled said that the defense sector should be in last place on the list of priority sectors that receive public funds, the minister said that—considering the existing budget shortages—people will probably feel that the defense budget is oversized.

[Begin Rojas recording] After a military regime, people will naturally think like that. The only thing I can say is that these figures represent a continuation of the operation of the Armed Forces, which the Constitution regards as indispensable for preserving our sovereignty, defending our territory, and operating as a defensive and deterrent factor, which is as essential as economic growth. [end recording]

Rojas said that the defense budget cannot be compared with the budgets of other areas. He stressed that the social areas—that is, education, health, housing, and social security—will receive 65 percent of the budget in 1992.

Krauss Defends Efficiency of Police Institutions

PY3010020291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss said this afternoon that police institutions—that is, the Carabineros and the Investigative Police—are solving the most important criminal cases with a high degree of efficiency—65 to 70 percent, surpassing that of last year.

Krauss made this remark when he was asked about a working meeting that he and the under secretaries of the interior and of regional and administrative development held with the Fourth Congressional Budget Subcommittee. This subcommittee is analyzing Interior Ministry expenditures.

Krauss added that the government will introduce absolutely no changes in its policy on crime and terrorism. If we describe the fact that police institutions are the only agencies that are doing this job as a soft hand, he said, we will continue to act with a soft hand.

The minister thus alluded to the conclusion of a CERC [Center for Contemporary Reality Studies] poll, that said that the public believes the government has a soft hand with respect to this problem.

[Begin Krauss recording] I would say that rather than a soft or hard, strong or weak hand, the point is to respect the law. This is the appropriate answer to all problems—in this case, to crime—in a democratic state of law. Concerning the fight against crime, the law sets forth that the Carabineros and the Investigative Police are the appropriate institutions. We are working through them and we are satisfied.

Consequently, if this question actually refers to whether there should be a repetition of past experiences—when there were different political circumstances under which the answer to crime was different—I can categorically say that there will not be a return to the past. [end recording]

As for last night's attacks, the minister said they are not normal, considering the situation over the past 12 months.

I do not know the reason for them, he said. Perhaps they marked a significant anniversary in the founding of one of the terrorist organizations operating in our country, he said. He stressed however, that this situation, quote, should not make us nervous, unquote.

Terrorist Bombs Explode in Western Santiago

PY2910135291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Street disturbances and a wave of simultaneous terrorist attacks occurred in the western part of Santiago shortly before 2300 last night. The first explosion occurred at approximately 2252 in Balmacema Rodriguez in Renca District. According to first reports, the bomb did not cause major damage.

Another bomb exploded at 2257 at the Santiago Civilian Court building at the corner of Huerfanos and Amunategui Streets. The explosion shattered the windows and caused damage to adjacent buildings.

A third bomb exploded at 2300 at the Local Foundation for Prison Inmates [Patronato Local de Reos] causing alarm in the area and in downtown Santiago. Police sources reported that the explosion only shattered the windows of a Penitentiary Service office and those of nearby residences.

It was also reported that street disturbances occurred in the 5 de Abril area, in Santiago neighborhood, where unidentified individuals erected barricades and burned tires. It was also reported that gun shots were heard in the area.

Survey Shows Aylwin Support at 75 Percent

PY2910145691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpts] According to the latest survey conducted by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, CERC, President Patricio Aylwin's government maintains a high degree of popularity. The survey also detected a significant change in people's interests.

One of the most interesting results is that Chileans do not care about politics or politicians. The explanations vary, but the fact does not change.

According to the results released today by investigators Marta Lagos and Christian Gasmury, we are living a period of lack of interest. Only 8 percent of those

questioned said they were very interested in politics; 26.9 percent of those questioned said they were somewhat interested; 21.5 percent said they were not very interested; and 42.8 percent said they were not interested in politics at all. [passage omitted]

Regarding the popularity of political parties, the survey shows that support for the Christian Democratic Party fell below 30 percent for the first time since 1988. Support for the PPD [Party for Democracy] increased to 15.8 percent; support for the National Renewal increased to 10.5 percent; support for the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] increased to 8.1 percent; support for the Socialist Party dropped to 5.4 percent; and the popularity of the Radical Party increased to 2.5 percent. [passage omitted]

According to the survey, President Aylwin's government continues to have broad popular support: 75.5 percent of those questioned approved of the government's performance while only 16.4 percent disapproved of it. [passage omitted]

Party Chairman Shows 'Displeasure' With Aylwin

PY3010113891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] National Renewal Party [RN] Chairman Andres Allamand expressed his displeasure about the president of the Republic's refusal to meet him as requested by the party on 2 October. He said that the position of the RN on several issues of national interest was going to be proposed to the government during the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Allamand] This is the first time such a situation has occurred. We are compelled to report it because we believe that this attitude is inappropriate for the democratic system.

[Unidentified reporter] Isn't this a tempest in a teacup?

[Allamand] I think that the president of the Republic should always demonstrate his willingness to listen to the opposition. [end recording]

Allamand said that this situation is inexplicable and pointed out that the RN will in no way change its attitude.

Asked why the president of the Republic refused to meet with his party this week, Allamand said that he did not believe that the decision was adopted in face of criticisms made by the RN to certain measures adopted by the government, but if this is the case, it reflects the government's absolute intolerance.

Former Pinochet Government Official Heads Office

PY2710005291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Summary] Juan Carlos Delano Ortuzar, economy minister under General Pinochet's government, was elected president of the Chilean Chamber of Commerce for the 1991-1992 period. He replaces Daniel Platovsky.

Alleged Manuel Rodriguez Front Member Acquitted

PY2710194291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Summary] Special Judge Juan Gonzalez Zuniga acquitted Daniel Alfaro Passano, an alleged member of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front who was arrested by the National Intelligence Center in April 1985. Judge Gonzalez acquitted Alfaro because the agents who arrested him and testified against him did so under false identities.

Ecuador Requests Mediation in Dispute With Peru

PY3010024091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Ecuadoran Government has asked for Chilean cooperation in resolving pending border issues with Peru. The request was made by former Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Francisco Acosta, who met with acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas today. [passage omitted]

After meeting with Vargas, the special Ecuadoran envoy reported on the objective of his mission.

[Begin Acosta recording] We came here for the sole purpose of saying that Ecuador is always willing to solve all its problems through peaceful means that are not only guaranteed, but also imposed by international law. Civilized people should settle their conflicts peacefully because the life and security of human beings are undoubtedly sacred. [end recording]

Ecuador is now working toward peacefully resolving its controversies with Peru, Acosta said, adding in response to a question that Chile is expected to respond to the Ecuadoran request.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What was the specific request made to the acting foreign minister?

[Acosta] As I said, as friends—and especially considering that Chile is a guarantor of the protocol—we asked for help in holding the meetings, conversations, and negotiations with Peru that may be necessary in order to begin taking the steps that are indispensable for peacefully solving the problem and in order to find a method for doing this. [end recording]

Considering the significant example of Chile and Argentina, the possibility of resorting to mediation by the pope has not been ruled out, Acosta said.

Argentine Economy Minister Arrives for Visit

PY3010015091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Argentina will adopt all necessary measures so that health problems affecting plants or animals do not hinder commercial activities involving the passage of farm products through Chile. This statement was made by Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo upon arriving in our country for an official two-day visit.

[Begin Cavallo recording] Of course we will. We will obviously comply with the commitments that we assume concerning the healthy condition of merchandise crossing the border. We will adopt all necessary measures. [end recording]

Cavallo said that his country would like to intensify control over plant and animal health and, quote, we are willing to work with Chile so that trade does not cause trouble for either country, unquote. He said it is very important that the two sister republics work together in order to promote their development opportunities.

Some Argentine provinces, he said, have already eradicated the plagues affecting their agriculture. He announced today that he signed a decree creating the Argentine Institute of Plant Quality and Health. The services rendered by the institute, Cavallo said, were scattered throughout various organizations. Now they will be concentrated in a single institute with many more resources, he said.

In no way do we want our products to cause problems for Chile, he said.

Cavallo is visiting Chile to attend the installation of the economic supplementation council and a meeting of the business committee of the two nations. Both events were outlined in an agreement that was signed in August.

Cavallo will stay in Santiago until tomorrow.

Education Minister Signs Loan Protocols Abroad

PY2910153691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Education Minister Ricardo Lagos returned to Chile. He said that the need to improve education will be the great challenge in the 21st century. Lagos toured European countries and the United States, where he signed a loan protocol with the World Bank which granted to Chile $170 million to improve the quality and objectivity of basic education. He held meetings in Madrid and Seville. At the UNESCO-sponsored meeting in France he submitted the Chilean position on educational matters.

He negotiated in Denmark to reinforce the financing of the 900 schools project. [recorded passage omitted]

Asked about his possible candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections, Lagos said that priority should be attached to the tasks that the government still has to complete. He said:

[Begin recording] First we have to concentrate on doing a good job. The Aylwin administration, that is the government of the coalition of parties, has been in office for just over one and a half years, and consequently the government has many things to complete. I think that the main objective is the struggle in support of freedom and of increasing equality. [end recording]

Lagos ended by saying that the proposals to be made in the upcoming presidential elections will be more related to the deep challenges that the 21st century will pose than with the events that took place in Chile during the 20th century.

Colombia

Civil Registry Announces Election Results

PA3010024391 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Political leaders continue to evaluate the results of the 27 October elections, which did not reflect the predictions that were made based on public opinion polls.

According to the latest results given by the National Registrar, the liberals consolidated their triumph with 56 senators, two in other coalitions; 81 representatives; and 18 governors.

The Democratic New Force and the 19 April Movement [M-19] are still very close, and conservatives headed by former President Andres Pastrana obtained more seats than those in the National Salvation Movement [MSN].

In view of this new scheme, President Cesar Gaviria will have to reorganize his cabinet, which now will have 14 ministers.

The National Civil Registry Office has completed counting the votes. Now the National Electoral Council will carry out the official vote count, and final results will be announced around 10 November.

According to the National Civil Registry, the Senate will have 56 Liberals; nine Conservatives; nine of Andres Pastrana's Democratic Force; nine of the M-19 Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19]; one of the Patriotic Union [UP]; two from Indian groups; one of the Metapolitial Unitary Movement; and five from other independent movements.

The 161 seats in the House of Representatives will be distributed as follows: 83 Liberals; 32 Conservatives; 10 MSN; 14 AD/M-19; three UP; and 19 from other political movements.

National Registrar Luis Camilo Osorio reported that observers were sent to Arauca, Cordoba, and Cesar Departments, where vote counting problems were reported.

He confirmed that, despite the high turnout of Indians at the polls, they only won two seats in the Senate because the special electoral district only permits two seats.

[Begin Osorio recording] Voters who registered as Indians and chose to vote in the special electoral district must accept the regulations for that special district, which specifies two seats. The fact that a candidate for the House of Representatives obtained a large number of votes does not mean that he is entitled to a Senate seat. That is absurd. [end recording]

Partial Cabinet Reshuffle Contemplated

PA2910165791 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Economic Development Minister Ernesto Samper Pizano resigned. On 28 October, Samper went to Washington for a meeting of the OAS foreign trade and development ministers.

This station has learned from sources close to Narino Presidential Palace that the following cabinet members enjoy the president's confidence and will remain in their posts: Humberto de la Calle, government and interior minister; Luis Fernando Jaramillo, foreign relations minister; Rudolf Hommes, finance and public credit minister; Rafael Pardo Rueda, national defense minister; Fernando Carrillo, justice minister; Juan Felipe Gaviria, public works and transportation minister.

The sources added, however, that the status of Francisco Posada de la Pena, labor and social security minister, is uncertain. If he obtains enough political support from the Conservatives, De la Pena will be confirmed in his post.

Government Agrees To Resume Talks With CNGSB

PA2910201991 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] After several telephone calls between Santa Fe de Bogota and Caracas and an evaluation by President Cesar Gaviria and the Advisory Commission on Public Order, the government decided to resume the talks with the guerrillas on 31 October in Caracas.

The members of the presidential peace commission are expected to travel to Caracas on 30 October. Both the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] have new cease-fire proposals.

Since early today, the CNGSB has been studying a new government proposal to resume the talks in Caracas on 31 October. The proposal has two parts: first, deciding the exact day to continue the talks; Second, the government demands that important topics be specified, including no more attacks on the civilian population, in order to prevent the disruption of the dialogue.

Here is Presidential Adviser for Peace Jesus Antonio Bejarano.

[Begin recording] There are some difficulties. For example, we are concerned about an intensification of guerrilla activities that began last week. We have also noticed some tension within the CNGSB regarding the resumption of the dialogue. However, we hope to overcome those problems. [end recording]

If an agreement is reached between the government and the guerrillas this afternoon, government delegates Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo and Tomas Concha will travel to Caracas on 30 October.

Paraguay

President Rodriguez Comments on Inflation

PY2910161291 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Oct 91 p 15

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez called inflation yesterday "a cancer that consumes the economies of our countries." He recalled that when he came to power there were several exchange rates in effect. President Rodriguez said: "I discarded that system to establish a single, free, fluctuating exchange rate because the multiple exchange rate allowed privileges for many individuals and was a focus of corruption." The president said this during a long talk with a delegation of Taiwanese journalists at Government House. We are publishing part of this interview thanks to the "Central News Agency."

Explaining the economic measures adopted by his administration, Rodriguez said: "We have declared free trade and social justice for everyone, something which did not exist in the past, and we have thus managed to stabilize our economy."

Rodriguez said: "We do not have hyperinflation. Given the measures we adopted, we will hardly reach 10 percent inflation this year. We want to reduce inflation to a minimum because I believe that inflation is a cancer that consumes the economies of our countries."

Asked about the Common Market of the South [Mercosur], the chief of state said that because he has confidence "in our businessmen" the Treaty of Asuncion—the instrument that created the regional organization—was signed with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. "We hope that through entrepreneurial effort we will attain real competitiveness," he said. "As a statesman, I sincerely hope that our industrialists will be able to improve their plant and machinery, so that they can increase their output. In order to attain this they need more talent,

creativity, aggressiveness, and some risk, because only by risking one can win," the president said.

Rodriguez recalled that his government promulgated special laws to encourage capital investments. He mentioned Investments Law 1/90 which, he said, "enormously facilitates" investments.

Observing that "our country currently needs small- and middle- sized agricultural industries," Rodriguez said: "We are exporting traditional products but without any added value." As an example he cited cotton: "Exported as a raw material, cotton is worth $1.50 per kilo, but turned into thread it is worth $4 per kilo. Turned into fabric, the value is increased fivefold," he told the Chinese journalists, adding that investments are needed to create job opportunities.

After stating that democracy never existed in Paraguay before February 1989, Rodriguez asserted that the Paraguayan people must now become aware "and civically educated if they are to live in democracy." He added that "it is unfair" to label military men as "authoritarian and dictators."

He said: "We will be very busy next year because we will be getting close to the next presidential elections. Election activity must begin in February next year."

"However, I also think that in the past all governments were military both in Paraguay and in other countries. Since it is generally believed that military men have no democratic spirit, I want to say something: I headed a movement to bring democracy to my country. Therefore, to judge military men as authoritarian, dictators, or whatever is not fair. It is not a fair name for a person. We are just like any one of you. The only thing that differentiates us is the profession we have chosen, but our patriotic feelings are the same as yours," Rodriguez said.

When asked about communism, Rodriguez said: "You know perfectly well that Paraguay has not yet legalized the communist party." Regarding the countries where communism is still in effect, he said: "The doors are being opened now. This is a conquest of democracy. Only the PRC and nearby Cuba have yet to become totally convinced that democracy is the best system of life for everyone in the world. I believe that sooner or later they will also open up to democracy and reject the regime that has oppressed their peoples for so many years."

"I can assure you that whatever government comes in 1993, Paraguayan policy will not change regarding the PRC," President Rodriguez told the Taiwanese journalists yesterday gathered at Government House. He recalled President Li Teng-hui's promise during his visit to Taiwan last year, that Taiwan will continue to cooperate with Paraguay.

When asked by a journalist whether Paraguayan policy regarding Taiwan would vary after 1993, Rodriguez answered: "The Paraguayan people are decided and appreciate the contributions from friendly countries that have helped us. I am sure that the Paraguayan Government's position will not change regarding Taiwan."

Another journalist asked Rodriguez whether the government will adopt measures to combat the "robberies" of which Chinese businessmen are victims in Ciudad del Este and Asuncion. The chief of state said: "Of course, that is a permanent concern of this government because people are being incited by opposition parties to carry out these robberies in order to discredit our government policy. They want to harm our real image because I know that when an investor is thinking of investing in a country he thinks: 'Will my investment in this country be safe and guaranteed?'"

Rodriguez said: "These people who stole or invaded a private property or committed other uneducated things are harming their own country. We will adopt the most appropriate measures."

He added: "We are becoming increasingly stern regarding the punishments applied to these people according to the law. The source of all these problems is unemployment."

The president ratified yesterday his wish for full "freedom of the press and freedom of broadcasting" in our country. "When in 1989 I became president, my first concern was to really ensure freedom of the press," he told the Taiwanese journalists.

Rodriguez said he does not want obstacles "to the expression of thoughts or broadcasting news." He added: "I also want the news broadcast by the media to contribute to the building of this system of transition to democracy in Paraguay. I do not want the media to hinder the task being carried out by the government, people, political parties, workers, industrialists, and businessmen because only together we will be able to ensure the transition to democracy until it is completely consolidated, so as to give a better future for the country," Rodriguez said.

Peru

Fujimori Pleased With Results of European Trip

PA2910202291 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori returned from his European tour. He expressed great enthusiasm and satisfaction with his trip, describing it as very fruitful and beneficial. President Fujimori visited Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, the Vatican, and Switzerland. He obtained important economic aid and was able to change the image of Peru abroad. He indicated that Peru has the total support of the countries he visited.

The president was welcomed back with honors befitting his high office by First Vice President Maximo San Roman and other senior government officials at the

installations of Air Group No. 8. Fujimori said that his tour was unprecedented as far as its achievements are concerned.

Torres y Torres To Withdraw From Cabinet

PA3010030691 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Around the middle of November, Fujimori's administration will be facing a cabinet crisis. The chairman of the cabinet, Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres, announced today that he will withdraw from the cabinet and that it is possible that the cabinet will undergo other changes. He said he will be replaced by a businessman.

Torres y Torres has been strongly criticized, especially over the way he handled recent problems with Ecuador.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] There has been much talk about the possibility of you resigning or of changes being made in the cabinet. Is this possible?

[Torres y Torres] The special powers that the legislative branch awarded us expire on 15 November. This means that the period during which I had to design a government program to be presented to Congress concludes. This program was drafted during the second phase of this government, the period during which I chaired the cabinet. It is based on the need to legally restructure economic and social activities. We have not finished the program yet; we still have a few days to finish this task. I believe that as of 15 November, we should initiate a new phase. During the new phase we must struggle to promote the country's economy and reestablish an economy that will allow the business sector to increase its activities. This will be a new phase and it must be organized and directed. For this reason we are studying the possibility of making some changes in the cabinet.

[Reporter] What is the new phase that has been designed like?

[Torres y Torres] I believe that this new phase of the cabinet should be led by a person linked to the business sector. We must overcome economic stagnation. This is a new phase we are going to initiate and it will be necessary to involve a man intimately related to business activities. We must get out of this recession. In this third phase we must engage in a new line of action. [end recording]

Military Patrol, Guerrillas Clash at El Eslabon

PA3010024491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0112 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 28 Oct (EFE)— Military sources reported on 28 October that at least 50 members of the "Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement" (MRTA), a pro-Guevara terrorist group, died and 30 were wounded on 24 October during a clash with a military patrol, which sustained two casualties.

The clash occurred in the sector of El Eslabon, in the central jungle zone of San Martin Department, northwest of Lima. Army Corporals Juan Mozombite and Rolin Pinchi were killed, according to a communique from the Armed Forces Joint Command.

The communique reads that the clash occurred when the military patrol countered an ambush prepared by approximately 250 members of the rebel group.

Also, police sources in Ayacucho reported that specialized agents on 28 October defused a letter-bomb sent to the residence of Luis Perez, an official in the Libertadores-Wari region, who was critically wounded in an attack on 23 October.

According to the authorities, the letter-bomb—a terrorist mode being used for the first time in Ayacucho—was addressed to Ninoshka Lopez de Perez, the official's wife, who is visiting her husband in a Lima hospital. Their son picked up the envelope but refrained from opening it because he thought it looked suspicious. He alerted the police.

Journalist Melissa Alfaro, chief of information at CAMBIO, a weekly publication, was killed on 10 October in Lima when she opened a letter-bomb at the weekly's offices.

Venezuela

* Final Count on AD Internal Elections Given

92SM0030B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 23 Sep 91 p 31

[Article by Elba Romero Lopez]

[Text] At a press conference, Gaston Vera, CEIN [Internal National Election Council] vice-president, delivered the final score that gave the orthodox elements 835 delegates to the National Convention and the reformists 618. In Bolivar and throughout the country, the district and plenary conventions will be held, except for the trade union plenary, that will take place after the National Convention in this division.

Yesterday Democratic Action's Internal National Election Council announced the final, official outcome of the internal consultations that have the orthodox members pitted against the reformists, and it showed that the orthodox elements have won out over the latter.

The report with the final figures on the number of delegates to the National Convention and the number of votes obtained by the various groups in the recent, grass-roots elections was given by Gaston Vera, CEIN vice-president, who was accompanied only by orthodox members Gustavo Mirabal Bustillos and Pedro Conde.

The reformists, represented only by Gustavo Orlando Lopez, remained at the sidelines waiting for the press conference to end so that they could once again raise

their voices in protest at the final count and announce that "we cannot support the spread of fraud in Bolivar."

Now the Plenaries

But aside from this position of the reformists, the figures reported yesterday indicate a total of 280,004 votes for the orthodox faction, which assures it of 835 delegates to the National Convention, and 227,142 votes for the reformists, who, on this basis, will have a total of 618 delegates.

Slate 2 (Tachira) obtained 13,724 votes for 33 delegates to the National Convention, while Portuguesa's Slate 2 received the same number of delegates with 15,596 votes, and that state's Slate 3 received a total of 5,313 votes (13 delegates). Carupano's Slate 1 (orthodox-reformist alliance) obtained 11,342 votes (19 delegates), and its Slate 2 obtained 4,924 votes, for eight delegates.

Vera said that now that the official results were known, the process will enter the phase of district plenaries, gearing up to the division plenaries and the division convention set for 29 September and 1 October. The national plenaries will take place on the 3rd and the National Convention on the 4th of October.

In connection with the Bolivar division, the vice-president of the Internal National Election Council said that this state would participate in the election process and that it was authorized to hold district plenaries as well as the district conventions.

The only phase that will not take place in Bolivar State is the trade union branch plenary, since the two candidates and the National Trade Union Bureau itself have asked that it be held once the National Convention is over.

Vera said that regardless of whether or not the reformists agreed with the results reported this Sunday, they are legal and they will be endorsed by the CEIN.

Gaston Vera admitted that, according to the final figures, abstentions ran at about 68 percent.

He said that there were no problems in any of the divisions that would affect the holding of the district plenaries, and he announced that beginning today, the division election results for the 8th of this month would be announced.

CEIN: Official Results

	Total Votes	Delegates to the National Convention
Orthodox	280,004	835
Reformists	227,142	618
Slate 2 (Tachira)	13,724	33
Slate 2 (Portuguesa)	15,596	33
Slate 3 (Portuguesa)	5,313	13
Slate 1 (Carupano)*	11,342	19
Slate 2 (Carupano)	4,924	8
Other Slates	60,702	—
Total	618,750	1,559

* Slate 1: Carupano Orthodox-Reformist Alliance

Delegates to the National Convention by Divisions

Division	Orthodox	Reformist	Other	Total
Amazonas	2	1	—	3
Amacuro	4	2	—	6
Cojedes	18	—	—	18
Apure	24	—	—	24
Nueva Esparta	9	15	—	24
Carupano	—	—	27	27
Yaracuy	10	18	—	28
La Guaira	22	11	—	33
Cumana	19	17	—	36
Barinas	21	16	—	37
Merida	20	25	—	45
Portuguesa	—	—	46	46
Trujillo	30	18	—	48
Guarico	29	22	—	51
Monagas	37	14	—	51
Falcon	33	23	—	56

Delegates to the National Convention by Divisions (Continued)

Division	Orthodox	Reformist	Other	Total
Tachira	—	39	33	72
Anzoategui	47	34	—	81
Aragua	42	41	—	83
Bolivar	86	—	—	86
Lara	56	31		87
Carabobo		42	—	109
Miranda	96	61	—	157
Zulia	76	87	—	153
Caracas	87	101	—	188
Total	835		106	1559

Note: Carupano, State 1: 19 delegates. Orthodox-Reformist Alliance.

A Regrettable Decision

Finally, Gaston Vera referred to the Leoni family's decision to resign from the Democratic Action party. He said in this regard that it was unfortunate for the party that a family with such deep roots in the AD should resign "for electoral reasons."

Vera indicated that the Leoni's should weigh their decision very carefully, and should remember above all that "this is a party that has made history. They should think this over."

Guyana

Hoyte, Commission Reject Election Postponement

FL2810203191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Report by Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 27, CANA—After a review of Guyana's electoral problems, a delegation from the Atlanta-based Carter Center has recommended the government postpone general elections due by year-end.

But the team said President Desmond Hoyte and the Elections Commission are sticking to the December 31 constitutional deadline.

The delegation, which left here Saturday night, wants the poll postponed up to next March while what it calls a seriously-flawed voters list is corrected.

Officials of the center told journalists Saturday night that the list was flawed by more than 33 per cent and the corrections could not be made before December 31.

Opposition parties last Thursday rejected the list, saying it was beyond salvage.

The opposition six-party Patriotic Coalition for Democracy also accused the state-controlled National Registration Centre of producing more than one voters list designed to fool opposition voters.

"There are some who have suggested that the list should be rejected," Carter Center spokesman Dr. Robert Pastor told newsmen.

"We do not agree. We believe that it can and should be used as the basis for the election.

"However, in order for this list to be used, it is our view that the corrections from the claims and objections process, currently under way, cannot be completed by the constitutional deadline (of December 31)," pastor said.

Harry Neufeld, a Canadian computer expert and member of the Carter delegation, said at least a full month was needed to integrate the data generated in the claims and objections process on the list.

Another three weeks would be needed with "a small army of clerks" for a full and open audit of the registration documents, he calculated.

Pastor said Hoyte was concerned about being criticised by the opposition for further election delays.

However, the parties last week sent Hoyte a letter urging him to reconvene the dissolved Parliament "with the purpose of amending the Constitution for the holding of elections not later than March 30, 1992."

The vote was orginally postponed from last May 31 to give the authorities more time to clean up a voters list riddled with inaccuracies.

Opposition Party Names 13 for Coming Elections

FL3010012791 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 29, CANA—The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has named a

number of prominent Guyanese among 13 non-party candidates to run on its so-called PPP/civic slate in coming elections.

The party named Priest Dale Bisnauth, academician Dr. Henry Jeffrey, Barbados-based Guyanese calpysonian Eddie "Mighty Rouser" da Silva, immediate past president of the Guyana Manfacturers' Association (GMA) Kim Kissoon, and physician Hughley Hanoman among the 13.

The PPP used a weekend rally of about 5,000 persons in the capital Georgetown to present the 13 candidates for the poll due by yearend but surrounded by uncertainty after opposition parties rejected a flawed voters' list.

Hanoman, a one-time supporter of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), told the rally that at the death of then president Forbes Burnham in 1985 he had recognised ills in the PNC but had mistakenly believed that President Desmond Hoyte as Burnham's successor could effect a cure.

"I had recognised the sickness in the patient, but had diagnosed the wrong medicine," Hanoman said, adding that the cure for the "sickness" is the PPP and its leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

The PPP has identified Jagan as its presidential candidate and named bauxite industry manager Sam Hinds for the prime minister's position after the collapse of efforts to forge an opposition party alliance for a joint challenge to the PNC, in power for 27 years.

Kissoon recently resigned as a PNC councillor on the Georgetown City Council, while university lecturer Dr. Effrey served until the 1980's as principal of the Government Co-Operative College.

At its rally PPP member, Dr. Roger Luncheon told the crowd the party was ready to do battle with Hoyte and his colleagues—"public enemy number one."

The PPP's triennial congress voted last July to enter a PPP-civic slate in the elections, after efforts for an opposition alliance were stalled. Other parties objected to the PPP's insistence on its leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan as joint presidential candidate.

In the wake of the production of the flawed voters' list by the state-run National Registration Centre, other opposition parties have opened discussions on another bid for a single candidates' list to challenge the PNC.

The PPP has however indicated interest only in a post elections power-sharing arrangement, and party sources said the decision in July to enter a PPP/civic list is reversible only if another congress of the party were held.

Suriname

OAS Approves Resolution Supporting Government

FL2410133891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1228 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Washington, Oct 24, CANA—The Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States (OAS), at a meeting here on Wednesday, unanimously approved a resolution calling for support for democracy in Suriname where the Army twice seized power from elected in the last 10 years.

The resolution congratulated the people and the government of Suriname on the election of President Ronald R. Venetiaan last month and on the reestablishment of institutional normalcy in the Dutch-speaking South American country. It also reiterated the support of the 34 OAS member states for the principle of representative democracy as a legitimate instrument for the promotion and defense of individual liberties and social justice. Finally, the resolution expressed the commitment of OAS members to the strengthening of ties with Suriname. The resolution was submitted to the Council, chaired by Honduras, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In a statement delivered on behalf of the Caricom bloc within the OAS, Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Patrick Lewis said the Caribbean Community welcomed the restoration of representative democracy in Suriname, which enjoys observer status on some Caricom bodies.

"Caricom views this as a very positive development with respect to the efforts of the Surinamese people in establishing a truly democratic society, predicated on free and fair elections, respect for human rights, and the strict observance of the rule of law," he said.

Lewis also said: "The people of the Americas have a natural desire to be free and to freely elect the government(s) of their choosing, without any internal or external threats or other institutional encumberances."